

PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN

(11)Publication number : 06-167495

(43)Date of publication of application : 14.06.1994

(51)Int.Cl.

G01N 33/543

G01N 33/577

// G01N 33/541

(21)Application number : 05-165631

(71)Applicant : S R LKK

(22)Date of filing : 05.07.1993

(72)Inventor : HIRATA MINORU

(30)Priority

Priority number : 04208535

Priority date : 14.07.1992

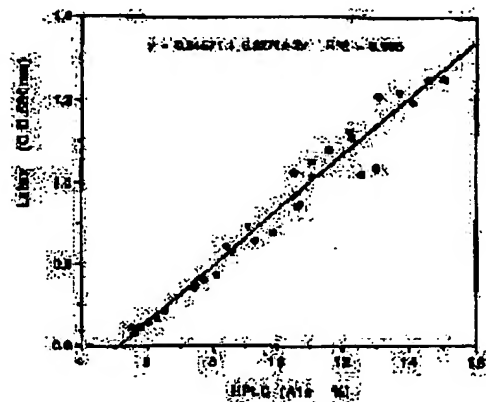
Priority country : JP

(54) AGGREGATION IMMUNOASSAY METHOD

(57)Abstract:

PURPOSE: To simply and rapidly simultaneously measure antigen substance in many samples to be inspected by reacting specific monoclonal with antigen substance of a sample to be inspected adsorbed to insoluble carrier, and further operating second antibody to be selectively reacted with the antibody.

CONSTITUTION: A sample to be inspected with refined water to entire blood and dissolved in blood is, for example, adsorbed in latex (insoluble carrier), reacted with anti-hemoglobin AIC monoclonal antibody, anti-mouse IgG (second antibody) is further added to selectively aggregate the latex, and its degree is measured to quantitatively analyze the AIC. Standard sample in which AIC% is known and measured by a high speed liquid chromatography is simultaneously quantitatively analyzed by an aggregation immunoassay method to form a calibration curve, and a fractional % value of unknown AIC of the sample is obtained based on it. According to this method, since the monoclonal antibody can be reacted with the antigen substance without removing the sample to be inspected adsorbed to the carrier, a measurement can be automated, accelerated and a large quantity can be processed.



LEGAL STATUS

[Date of request for examination]

[Date of sending the examiner's decision of rejection]

[Kind of final disposal of application other than the examiner's decision of rejection or application converted registration]

Searching PAJ

2/2 ページ

[Date of final disposal for application]

[Patent number]

[Date of registration]

[Number of appeal against examiner's decision
of rejection]

[Date of requesting appeal against examiner's
decision of rejection]

[Date of extinction of right]

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CLAIMS

[Claim(s)]

[Claim 1] The condensation immunoassay method characterized by making the second antibody which is made to adsorb or combine the antigenic matter in a specimen with an insoluble support particle, and is alternatively combined with this monoclonal antibody after making the monoclonal antibody which reacts to this antigenic matter specifically react further, and making an insoluble support particle condense alternatively.

[Claim 2] The condensation immunoassay method according to claim 1 to which the monoclonal antibody which reacts to the antigenic matter specifically is made to react, without removing this specimen by washing after adsorbing or combining the antigenic matter in a specimen with an insoluble support particle.

[Claim 3] The condensation immunoassay method according to claim 1 or 2 said insoluble support particle becomes an aqueous liquid medium from the particle of the organic high polymer which is insolubility substantially, and/or the particle of mineral matter.

[Claim 4] The condensation immunoassay method according to claim 1 or 2 said insoluble support particle is a particle of the range of 0.04-0.8-micron mean particle diameter.

[Claim 5] The condensation immunoassay method according to claim 3 said insoluble support particle is a latex particle.

[Claim 6] The condensation immunoassay method according to claim 5 said insoluble support particle is a polystyrene latex particle.

[Claim 7] The condensation immunoassay method according to claim 1 or 2 which is the monoclonal antibody which does not react to the antigenic matter with which said monoclonal antibody exists in the liquid phase in the native condition, but reacts to the antigenic matter solid-phase-ized by insoluble support specifically.

[Claim 8] The condensation immunoassay method according to claim 1 or 2 said insoluble support particle consists of a particle which carried out surface treatment.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[Detailed Description of the Invention]**[0001]**

[Industrial Application] This invention relates to the approach (the condensation immunoassay method) of measuring the antigenic matter in fluids, such as a biological material, immunologically using an agglutination reaction. Furthermore, this invention relates to the monoclonal antibody which can be used suitable for such a condensation immunoassay method.

[0002]

[Description of the Prior Art] Recently, in a hospital, an inspection pin center, large, etc., automation of many inspection, such as a clinical laboratory test, and/or shortening of the measuring time have been attained from points, such as a request of a labor shortage, cost reduction, or abundant specimen processing. Quality thru/or the condensation method which carries out a quantum have come [as an approach suitable for such automation / using the agglutination reaction of an insoluble support particle] the antigenic matter to attract attention.

[0003] In the immunochemistry field, the latex condensation immunoassay method has mainly been performed as a condensation method. When a well-known latex condensation method measures the antigenic matter in fluids (specimen), such as a biological material, in the field concerned as indicated by JP,58-11575,B, they are detection or the thing which carries out a quantum about said antigenic matter by mixing this specimen and the latex which made the antibody specifically combined with this antigen matter, or its fragmentation support, and measuring extent of condensation of a latex.

[0004] In this case, as the above-mentioned antibody, a polyclonal antibody is usually used. In order that a monoclonal antibody may react only with the specific epitope on an antigen molecule, even when this antigenic matter is a polyvalent antigen, about a specific epitope, it is not necessarily multiple-valued *****. Therefore, when a monoclonal antibody is used as the above-mentioned antibody, possibility that the antigen will turn into a monovalence antigen about the epitope corresponding to a specific monoclonal antibody becomes high.

[0005] When the antigen matter made into the purpose of measurement is a monovalence antigen, even if the antibody supported by the latex and this antigenic matter in a sample react or join together, condensation does not usually take place. In this case, detection or the approach (condensation inhibition technique) of carrying out a quantum is well-known in the field concerned in this antigenic matter by mixing, making the latex which made the antibody support, the poly hapten as agglutinin which can make this latex condense, and a specimen react, and measuring how many latex condensation the antigenic matter in a specimen checked.

[0006] Therefore, since it may become monovalence about an antigen epitope in the condensation method using a monoclonal antibody by the above-mentioned reason in the case of the protein antigen which is a polyvalent antigen, on the occasion of measurement of such a protein antigen, it cannot but depend on measurement by the condensation inhibition technique using the poly hapten containing the part of the antigen epitope.

[0007] Therefore, although the poly hapten as agglutinin is newly needed when measuring a monovalence antigen using a monoclonal antibody, there is no guarantee which shows the reactivity as the native antigenic matter in a biological material with the same poly hapten.

[0008] If the usual latex condensation method using a polyclonal antibody is compared with the latex condensation inhibition technique using a monoclonal antibody, it is difficult for a polyclonal antibody to always obtain the thing of the same quality, and the monoclonal antibody is fit for mass production method of the antibody which the point and quality fixed to the thing also with large loss of this antibody in the phase which refines to a specific antibody. From the point of the stability of such quality, although the monoclonal antibody is more advantageous, when a monoclonal antibody is used, there is a difficulty that a latex condensation inhibition technique must be used as mentioned above. The present condition is that the usual latex condensation method using a polyclonal antibody is used in consideration of such a point.

[0009] Although the monoclonal antibody which reacts with the poly hapten as agglutinin although it is natural when using a monoclonal antibody will be used, the antigenic matter with the native monoclonal antibody may not react. In such a case, it is thought that a certain processing for bringing the reactivity of the native antigenic matter close to the reactivity of the poly hapten is needed.

[0010] The limitation of the well-known latex condensation method (or latex condensation inhibition technique) in the field concerned is clear from many faults which were mentioned above.

[0011] Every time it more specifically removes the case of the sugar chain antigen containing two or more same epitopes as intramolecular in the conventional latex condensation method, generally the monoclonal antibody which recognizes only a specific epitope cannot be used. In this case, although the possibility of application of a latex condensation inhibition technique is left behind, even if the poly hapten and the monoclonal antibody which are agglutinin react, possibility that do not react but a certain processing is needed is high [a monoclonal antibody and this native antigenic matter]. To this having played the role with the important higher order structure of this protein antigen in reactivity with an antibody in the case of a protein antigen, the poly hapten which is agglutinin is the polymer (or oligomer) of a peptide, and the above-mentioned protein antigen itself is considered to be because for spacial configurations to differ.

[0012] Therefore, one of the purposes of this invention is to offer the new condensation immunoassay method for the antigenic matter.

[0013] A monoclonal antibody being used for the purpose of this invention, it is more simple and, more specifically, is to offer the condensation immunoassay method which does not need agglutinin.

[0014] Other purposes of this invention are to offer the condensation immunoassay method using a more stable and simple condensation reagent.

[0015]

[Means for Solving the Problem] this invention person does not use wholeheartedly the insoluble support particle which made this antigenic matter support a specific monoclonal antibody on the occasion of measurement of the antigenic matter in a specimen as a result of research. It found out that the above-mentioned insoluble support particle condensed alternatively by making the antigenic test portion slack this matter itself stick to an insoluble support particle, and making the second antibody which a specific monoclonal antibody is made to react to this antigen matter, and reacts to this monoclonal antibody alternatively further act.

[0016] The latex condensation immunoassay method of this invention is based on the above-mentioned knowledge, adsorb or combine the antigenic matter in a specimen with an insoluble support particle, the second antibody alternatively combined with this monoclonal antibody after making the monoclonal antibody which reacts to this antigenic matter specifically react is made to react further in more detail, and it is characterized by making an insoluble support particle condense alternatively.

[0017] In this invention, from the point which makes quantum nature reservation easy, as for the concentration of a biological material, the buffer-solution concentration of insoluble support particle suspension, etc., it is desirable to choose conditions with the property of a parameter so that an insoluble support particle may be adsorbed in proportion to the abundance in the antigenic matter in a biological material.

[0018] In this invention, it is not a problem whether the antigenic matter which should be made

to stick to an insoluble support particle is a polyvalent antigen, or it is a monovalence antigen. However, adsorption to a minute amount biogenic substance or an insoluble support particle is not necessarily easy for application of this invention to measurement of the difficult antigenic matter.

[0019] The antigenic matter in a specimen is made to stick to an insoluble support particle, and when making the monoclonal antibody which reacts to this antigenic matter specifically react, existence of the antigenic matter (namely, non-adsorbed antigenic matter) which remained into the liquid phase, without being solid-phase-ized may affect measured value.

[0020] If not only the antigenic matter by which the insoluble support particle was adsorbed but the non-adsorbed antigenic matter more specifically reacts [the above-mentioned monoclonal antibody], condensation of an insoluble support particle will be checked and un-arranging will arise. Although this un-arranging is solvable by washing this insoluble support and removing the non-adsorbed antigenic matter after making the antigenic matter stick to an insoluble support particle, addition of such a washing process may reduce the practicality thru/or quick nature of condensation immunoassay of this invention.

[0021] When concentration distribution of the antigenic matter in a biological material does not have big width of face, it is making high the ratio of the antigenic matter by which insoluble support's is adsorbed, and it is possible to deal with the amount of the non-adsorbed antigenic matter as an amount which does not pose a problem substantially, but when concentration distribution is very large, increase of such the amount of adsorption is not necessarily easy.

[0022] this invention person found out that it was possible to make the antigenic matter solid-phase[adsorption and]-ized by insoluble support and a selection target react, without making the above-mentioned monoclonal antibody react substantially with the antigenic matter in the liquid phase in above-mentioned this invention, as a result of advancing research further, taking such a point into consideration. Therefore, it becomes possible to make the monoclonal antibody to said antigenic matter react, without according to the desirable mode of this invention, removing this specimen by washing in the describing [above] condensation immunoassay method, after making the antigenic matter in a specimen stick to insoluble support.

[0023] That is, in the more desirable example of this invention, as a monoclonal antibody to be used, with the antigen by which the insoluble support particle was adsorbed, although it reacts, it becomes possible to except the condensation inhibitory action by the non-adsorbed component completely by choosing what does not react with the antigenic matter which is not adsorbed in the liquid phase.

[0024] Such a monoclonal antibody is Koehler. & It can obtain by the cell fusion method which Milstein and others (497 495- Nature, 256, 1975) reported. Although this approach itself is a conventional method and it is not necessary to state anew, in this approach, it is necessary to sort out the hybridoma cell which produces the target monoclonal antibody efficiently. Since extensive specimen processing is easy, sorting by the so-called ELISA method (enzyme immunoassay) to which make 96 hole plate solid-phase-ize a predetermined antigen, make the culture supernatant of a hybridoma cell react to it, and an enzyme-labeling anti-mouse immunoglobulin is made to react further is performed in many cases. Under the present circumstances, although this sorting-out method may be used when constructing the assay system to which an antibody is made to react in the condition that the antigen is solid-phase-ized since the antigen is solid-phase-ized, the case where the antibody of not reacting by the assay system to which an antigen and an antibody are made reacting in the liquid phase exists like radioimmunoassay (RIA) in the monoclonal antibody which the hybridoma cell sorted out and obtained by the ELISA method produces can see.

[0025] In the field concerned, it becomes possible by [well-known] being, carrying out, being a well-known thing and using such a monoclonal antibody to make it react to an insoluble support particle specifically with the solid-phase-ized antigenic matter, without receiving inhibition of the antigenic matter in the liquid phase of such a phenomenon itself.

[0026] According to this invention, to the antigenic matter by which the insoluble support particle was adsorbed, after making a specific monoclonal antibody react to this antigenic matter, alternative condensation of insoluble support can be caused by making the second antibody

which reacts to this monoclonal antibody alternatively act.

[0027] As mentioned above, although detail by the condensation immunoassay method by this invention has been given, as mentioned above, since manufacture of a reagent is simple and easy, according to this invention, the approach using a reagent with high preservation stability can be offered.

[0028] More specifically, saving in the stable condition is not easy, preventing that always make the thing of equivalent quality and un-unique condensation and precipitate arise about this latex reagent (latex with which the antigen, the antibody, etc. were supported), although the latex is generally used as insoluble support in the field concerned.

[0029] On the other hand, according to this invention, since sensitization of an antigen or the antibody is not substantially carried out to insoluble support (latex etc.), it becomes possible to use a commercial non-sensitization latex as it is as this insoluble support. Furthermore, it is not necessary to be necessarily a refined material also about an antibody and, since the reagent is simple, it becomes possible to keep preservation stability high, and it can be called the advantageous approach also for a manufacturer.

[0030] Hereafter, this invention is further explained to a detail, referring to a drawing if needed.

[0031] (Insoluble support particle) In the development process of the condensation immunoassay method of this invention, it observed that the time amount to which this invention person solid-phase-izes the antigenic matter to insoluble support was very short. Then, this invention person tries to solid-phase-ize the specimen of the water solution containing the antigenic matter to insoluble support as it is, and came to complete this invention.

[0032] As insoluble support used for this invention, although the particle of the organic high polymer said to the conventional techniques (JP,58-11575,B etc.), the particle of an inorganic oxide, or the particle that carried out surface treatment of the front face of these matter used as a nucleus with the organic substance etc. is used preferably, it is not restricted to these, for example. In this invention, latexes, such as polystyrene latex, are especially used preferably as the above-mentioned insoluble support. Originally, although a latex is a milky lotion which exudes when a rubber tree is damaged, the latex as used in the field of this invention means the suspension thru/or the emulsion which the discontinuous particle has suspended in aqueous liquid.

[0033] Although the homogeneity of the magnitude of a particle, control of a surface state, selection of a internal structure, etc. are usually required at an advanced dimension when performing immunoassay quantitatively except for the case where it uses by the qualitative reaction, it chooses from commercial items and the good latex particle for such reagents can be used.

[0034] For example, as a latex particle, the thing of mean-particle-diameter extent of 0.04-0.8 microns (further 0.08-0.2 microns) is used preferably. From the point of adsorbing thru/or combining the antigenic matter in a specimen with a latex efficiently, since the latex with small mean particle diameter is larger, its surface area per unit weight percent is desirable.

[0035] Although especially the quality of the material of a latex is not restricted, styrene system latexes, such as polystyrene latex, an acrylic-acid system latex, etc. are used preferably. It is desirable to use a latex (for example, polystyrene latex) with strong surface hydrophobicity, when making adsorption of protein thru/or a peptide smooth. Furthermore, various denaturation latexes (for example, carboxylic-acid denaturation latex), a magnetic latex (latex to which the endocyst of the magnetic particle was carried out), etc. may be used if needed.

[0036] The polystyrene particle obtained as a latex particle according to the emulsion polymerization which does not use an emulsifier is used especially preferably. Based on repulsion of surface negative charges, even if such a latex has no emulsifier, it can exist in stability.

[0037] In order to make the antigenic matter in a specimen stick to a latex particle, about the buffer solution which makes a latex particle suspend, the same technique is fundamentally [as the case where a plate is made to solid-phase-ize an antigen by ELISA etc.] usable. It is desirable from the point of stability to make the weak alkaline glycine buffer solution or the weak alkaline boric-acid buffer solution suspend spontaneous agglutination in such a case, although there are also a lifting and a cone thing depending on a latex particle. It is desirable to use as

suspension of 0.05 to 1 percentage by weight about latex concentration.

[0038] (Antigen antibody reaction) After solid-phase-izing the antigenic matter in a specimen, the monoclonal antibody which reacts specifically to this antigenic matter is made to react in this invention. In this case, in order to prevent sticking to the insoluble support which this antibody turns into from a latex etc., as for the monoclonal antibody solution to be used, it is desirable that the surfactant of Tween20 grade is included about 0.1 to 0.3%.

[0039] The insoluble support which the second antibody which reacts alternatively subsequently to this monoclonal antibody is made to react, and consists of a latex etc. is made to condense in this invention.

[0040] (Agglutination reaction) Although especially the container that performs the agglutination reaction of this invention is not limited, it is possible to use the container of the shape of a usual tube (test tube; made from polystyrene, for example, a product), the plate for ELISA (for example, 96- a well — it is possible to use the plates for ELISA (NUNC-IMMUNO PLATE etc.)) which has two or more wells (hole) if a point with easy simultaneous processing of an a large number specimen is taken into consideration It is desirable to react from the point which makes easy measurement of the latex condensation by the optical technique using a transparent container substantially so that it may mention later. In addition, when using a automatic analysis machine which is mentioned later, an agglutination reaction is made usually performed in a reaction vessel this analysis in a plane.

[0041] (Measurement of condensation) Especially the approach of measuring extent of condensation of an insoluble support particle is not restricted. For example, what (what has few condensation has a feeling of transparency) extent of condensation of condensation of the comparison with extent of the turbidity of a qualitative thru/or sample known when measuring on a half-quantum target to the above-mentioned insoluble support particle is judged also for by viewing is possible. When measuring this condensation quantitatively, from the point of simple nature, measuring optically, for example is desirable.

[0042] As an optical measuring method of condensation of the insoluble support particle which consists of a latex etc., a well-known approach is available. Various methods, such as the so-called nephelometry (formation of an aggregate is regarded as an increment in turbidity), a measuring method (formation of an aggregate is regarded as change of particle size distribution thru/or mean particle diameter) by particle size distribution, and integrating-sphere turbidimetry (change of the forward-scattering light by formation of an aggregate is measured using an integrating sphere, and a ratio with transmitted light reinforcement is measured), are more specifically available. About each of these measuring method, a speed test (rate assay; when it differs, at least two measured value is obtained, and based on the increment (namely, increment rate) of this measured value of a between, it asks for extent of condensation at these times), and a terminal point trial (end point assay; one measured value is obtained at a certain time (at the time of usually being considered the terminal point of a reaction), and it asks for extent of condensation based on this measured value) are available. It is desirable to perform the speed test using nephelometry from the simplicity of measurement and the point of quick nature.

[0043] In optical measurement of condensation of an insoluble support particle, it is desirable to measure using light with a wavelength of about 500-1400nm in the range whose mean particle diameter of the insoluble support particle which consists of a latex etc. is about 0.04-0.8 microns.

[0044] (Antigenic matter) The antigenic matter measured by the condensation immunoassay method of this invention Although it is not restricted especially as long as the adsorption (or association) to insoluble support is possible and the creation thru/or acquisition of a monoclonal antibody corresponding to this antigenic matter is possible It is desirable that it is the matter contained 1 or more mg/mL in a biological material from the point of the ease of adsorption to insoluble support, and it is desirable from the point of the ease of the above-mentioned monoclonal antibody creation that they are with a molecular weight of 10,000 or more matter (protein etc.).

[0045] (Example of measurement of hemoglobin A 1C) As one embodiment which shows the description of the condensation immunoassay method of this invention well, although the

example of measurement of hemoglobin A 1C (HbA1C) is described below, the condensation immunoassay method of this invention is not limited to measurement of hemoglobin A 1C.

[0046] A glucose combines with alpha-amino group of the valine which is the amino acid residue of the beta chain amino terminal of hemoglobin (Hb) nonenzymatic, the above "hemoglobin A 1C" serves as glycosylated hemoglobin, and the blood level of this hemoglobin A 1C reflects a diabetic comparatively long-term blood sugar control condition here. Therefore, it is very significant clinically to measure this HbA1C, when getting to know a blood sugar control condition (for example, a Japanese clinical one, 48, a special number number, 315 to 322 (1990) reference).

[0047] Although hemoglobin is a hetero tetramer which consists of two alpha chains and two beta chains, it is the description that alpha amino group of one amino terminal has glycosylated hemoglobin A 1C between two beta chains, therefore the number of reactive sites characteristic of hemoglobin A 1C is one. If it puts in another way, from a reactant field with a specific monoclonal antibody, hemoglobin A 1C will function on hemoglobin A 1C as a monovalence antigen.

[0048] Although the monoclonal antibody which the latex was made to support according to [although it is possible to face measuring hemoglobin A 1C and to measure by the latex condensation inhibition technique using the conventional technique] JP,1-150857,A reacts with the poly hapten which is agglutinin and causes condensation, pretreatment of the native hemoglobin Alc in a biological material not reacting with a monoclonal antibody, therefore adding guanidine hydrochloride to a specimen, and heating 56 degrees C for 15 minutes is needed.

[0049] There was a still more characteristic problem about measurement of hemoglobin A 1C. That is, hemoglobin A 1C was conventionally measured by the high speed liquid chromatography (HPLC), and fractionation % of hemoglobin A 1C in [all] hemoglobin has been called for. Therefore, in order according to above-mentioned JP,1-150857,A to perform a latex condensation inhibition technique and to ask for fractionation % of hemoglobin A 1C, it was indispensable to have performed the quantum of hemoglobin separately.

[0050] According to the condensation immunoassay method of this invention, it is related with measurement of hemoglobin A 1C. After making a specimen (for example, thing which added purified water to whole blood and hemolyzed) stick to a latex (insoluble support) and making an anti-hemoglobin A 1C monoclonal antibody react, for example, by adding the anti-mouse IgG (second antibody) further The quantum of hemoglobin A 1C can be carried out by being able to make alternative condensation of a latex cause and measuring extent of this alternative condensation. When the hemoglobin A 1C% value measured by HPLC carries out the quantum of the known standard sample to coincidence by the condensation immunoassay method of this invention and creates a calibration curve, based on this calibration curve, the fractionation % value of hemoglobin A 1C of a strange sample can be calculated.

[0051] (Anti-HbA1C monoclonal antibody) It is HbA0 which reacted substantially to adsorption thru/or solid-phase-ized HbA1C as an anti-HbA1C monoclonal antibody, and was solid-phase-ized. If it is the anti-(it does not react substantially with HbA1C [in the liquid phase], and HbA0 desirable further) HbA1C monoclonal antibody which does not react substantially, it can use without a limit especially. according to examination of this invention person — general — saccharification — if a monoclonal antibody is produced by making a peptide into immunogen, such a monoclonal antibody can be obtained. It is HbA1C and HbA0 here. The receiving reactivity is the following, and measurable. [make and]

[0052] For example, it reacts with solid-phase-ized HbA1c, and is HbA0. Not reacting can be measured as follows.

[0053] After diluting HbA1c (for example, the product made from EXOCELL; purification HbA1c) with 0.05M citrate buffer solution (pH5.6) on the plate for 96 hole (well) ELISA (for example, NUNC; NUNC-IMMUNO PLATE, MAXISORP F96 (4-42404)) so that the concentration may become at 5microg/mL, it is poured distributively every [50micro / L] on it at each well. This plate is left at 4 degrees C overnight, and HbA1c is solid-phase-ized on an ELISA plate.

[0054] After washing this plate 4 times by PBS-T (0.01M phosphate buffer solution pH6.8/0.15MNaCl / 0.1% Tween 20), 50micro (for example, hybridoma culture supernatant) of

samples L containing an anti-HbA1c monoclonal antibody is added, and it is left for 2 hours and made to react at a room temperature (about 25 degrees C). After washing a plate 4 times by PBS-T, the POD (peroxidase) indicator anti-mouse (for example, the product made from CAPPEL, 3711-0081) IgG is diluted with PBS-T 5000 times, and is made to react at a room temperature 50microL In addition for 1 hour.

[0055] After adding 100micro (a 0.1% o-phenylenediamine (sigma company make) / phosphoric-acid-citrate buffer solution (23.9g of 7.3g of citric-acid 1 hydrates, and phosphoric-acid disodium 12 hydrates, pure-water 1L) / 0.003%H₂O₂) of substrate solutions L after 4 times washing by PBS-T and making it react for 30 minutes at a room temperature, 2N-sulfuric acid is 50microL Added and an enzyme reaction is stopped. Subsequently, it asks for the absorbance (OD) in 490nm of the solution after the above-mentioned enzyme reaction using an immuno plate reader (the product made from Dynatech, MR5000).

[0056] By carrying out like the above, they are a monoclonal antibody and HbA0 except replacing with HbA1c used above and using HbA0 (for example, the product made from EXOCELL; purification HbA 0). Reactivity can be similarly searched for with OD value.

[0057] It is desirable that an anti-HbA1c monoclonal antibody shows 1.0 or more (further 2.0 or more) reactivity on the scale of HbA1c and the above-mentioned immuno plate reader in this invention, and it is HbA0. It is desirable that 0.1 or less (further 0.05 or less) reactivity is shown.

[0058] On the other hand, HbA1c which the above-mentioned monoclonal antibody solid-phase-ized is HbA1c in the liquid phase, and HbA0, although it reacts. Not reacting is measurable as follows.

[0059] HbA1c The 0.2M glycine buffer solution (pH2.5) is 100microL Added to 100microL, and it is left for 5 minutes in a room temperature. After 800microL Adding and stirring PBS-T there, an anti-hemoglobin A 1c monoclonal antibody (a hybridoma culture supernatant, 50 time dilution) is 100microL Added to the 100microL, and it is left for 30 minutes in a room temperature. And 100microL of them is made to react at a room temperature beforehand for 2 hours in addition to 96 hole plate which solid-phase-ized HbA1c (what added 5microg/mL and 100microL to 96 hole plate, solid-phase-ized by leaving it overnight [4 degree-C], and was washed 4 times by PBS-T).

[0060] After carrying out four washing by PBS-T, a POD indicator anti-mouse IgG antibody (5000 time dilution) is 100microL Added, and it is made to react at a room temperature for 1 hour. The substrate reaction after 4 times washing is performed for room temperature 30 minutes by PBS-T, the stop solution is added, and OD value of 490nm is measured. It replaces with HbA1c used above, and is HbA0. Except using, it carries out like the above and they are a monoclonal antibody and HbA0. The reactivity in the inside of the liquid phase can be searched for.

[0061] The above is the case where hemoglobin is denatured and is HbA1c and HbA0 as contrast. Since it is made to react with un-denaturalizing, except having changed into 100micro of pure water L the place which adds 100micro of glycine buffer solutions L, it can carry out like the above and reactivity with the monoclonal antibody in the inside of the liquid phase can be searched for.

[0062] this invention — setting — an anti-HbA1c monoclonal antibody — non-denaturalized HbA1c, HbA0, and HbA0 that denaturalized further etc. — **** — in the liquid phase, it is desirable that 10microg/mL (20 moremicrog/mL) or reactivity is not shown, but denaturation HbA1c shows reactivity below by 1microg/mL (0.5 moremicrog/mL) in the liquid phase on the other hand.

[0063] It sets to this measurement and is HbA1c and HbA0. Refining and using is desirable. This purification HbA1c and HbA0 If it carries out, it is possible to use a commercial item, but as long as there is no suitable commercial item, you may refine and use by HPLC. It sets to this purification and is PBS in 50micro of Homo sapiens whole blood L, for example. It washes centrifugally by 2mL and supernatant liquid is thrown away, and on the pellet which is an erythrocyte, pure-water 2mL is added and is hemolyzed. Fractionation of this is carried out by HPLC, and they are HbA1c and HbA0. A peak is isolated preparatively.

[0064] As for the separation conditions of HPLC, the following conditions are used preferably.

[0065] instrument-for-analysis: — Shimazu HPLC system column: — high-resolution column for hemoglobin separation MICROPEARL (Sekisui Chemical stock)

Eluate A:Low Phosphate (Auto A1c and P type (the first chemistry of Kyoto)),

Eluate B:High Phosphate (phosphoric-acid 1 potash 8.5g, phosphoric-acid 2 potash 12.5g, 3.5g of potassium chloride, pure-water 1L),

mobile phase: — A+B0 - 3.5min B concentration 0%3.5 - 4.0min B concentration The gradient 4.0 from 0% to 80% - 17.0min B concentration 80% style **: — 1 mL/min monitor: — absorbance amount of 415nm samples: — 20microL (antibody combined with an anti-HbA1C monoclonal antibody)

If it is the blood serum of animal species with which this MAb originates as an antibody (the 2nd antibody) alternatively combined with the above-mentioned anti-HbA1c monoclonal antibody (a monoclonal antibody is hereafter indicated to be also "MAb") and is the antibody which indicates reactivity to be a standard thing substantially in an Ouchterlony method, it can use without a limit especially.

[0066] In this invention, the following approaches can estimate the reactivity of an animal blood serum and the 2nd antibody.

[0067] In addition to a physiological saline, it heats and agarose (product made from dotite) is dissolved so that it may become 0.6%. By adding those 10mL(s) to a plastics petri dish (the product made from CORNING; 100mm dish, 25020), holding them horizontally, and cooling them, an agarose plate is produced and 4mm of diameters and a hole with a distance of 4mm are made in this agarose plate by the puncher.

[0068] The 2nd antibody, and 12micro (for example, normal mouse serum) of reference standards L and the 12micro (for example, anti-mouse IgG rabbit blood serum) of the 2nd antibody L of an animal blood serum which should react are added to a hole with a distance of 4mm, respectively, the inside of agarose is diffused and a precipitation line is made to form by leaving it the inside of humid. Diffusion in the above-mentioned agarose plate is performed making the 2nd antibody dilute with a physiological saline every 2 times, and it observes with the naked eye what time a precipitation line can be formed to dilution to normal mouse serum.

[0069] As for the second antibody used for this invention, it is desirable to form a standard animal blood serum and a precipitation line to dilution at least 4 times, and it is still more desirable to form a precipitation line to dilution (further 32 time dilution) at least 16 times.

[0070] Next, one desirable embodiment in the case of measuring HbA1C in this invention is described.

[0071] In this invention, 2-100micro L (further 5-20microL) extent of laked blood is usually extracted as a specimen in each tube. As actually used laked blood, a specimen (for example, thing which added pure-water 2mL to 50micro of whole blood L) can also be diluted and used for about 5 to 10 times with the buffer solutions, such as GBS.

[0072] Subsequently, extent neglect of the latex suspension (for example, 0.087-micrometer latex, 0.15% concentration) is carried out for 1 to 10 minutes (further 3 - 7 minutes) at 100-500microL (further 200-400microL) extent, in addition a room temperature (about 25 degrees C), and a latex is made for each tube to adsorb HbA1C in a sample. Under the present circumstances, as for the latex suspension to be used, it is desirable to dilute and use a latex undiluted solution with the buffer solutions, such as GBS.

[0073] Subsequently, an anti-HbA1C monoclonal antibody (for example, monoclonal antibody of the mouse ascites origin) solution is added to HbA1C made to stick to a latex 100-300microL (further 150-200microL) grade, extent neglect (incubation) is carried out to it at 37 degrees C for 2 to 10 minutes (further 3 - 6 minutes), and HbA1C and a monoclonal antibody are made to react to it. In this case, as for the monoclonal antibody solution to be used, it is desirable to dilute and use an undiluted solution (mouse ascites) for 200 to 1000 time (further 400 to 800 times) extent with the buffer solutions, such as GBS. Under the present circumstances, to the buffer solution to be used, it is desirable from the point that extent, in addition Lycium chinense prevent physical adsorption on the front face of a latex of a monoclonal antibody for a surfactant (Tween 20 grade) 0.1 to 0.5% (further 0.2 - 0.3%).

[0074] The second antibody further combined with the above-mentioned monoclonal antibody in

this invention (for example, when the above-mentioned monoclonal antibody is the mouse origin) 10-150micro L (further 20-100microL) extent of anti-immunoglobulin blood serums, such as an anti-mouse immunoglobulin G (IgG) blood serum of other animal origins, is applied. Extent neglect (incubation) is carried out at 37 degrees C for 5 to 30 minutes (further 10 - 20 minutes), and the above-mentioned monoclonal antibody and the second antibody combined with this are made to react. In this case, as for the second antibody to be used, in the monoclonal antibody mentioned above, it is desirable similarly to dilute and use for five to 50 time (further ten to 20 times) extent with the buffer solutions, such as GBS-T (GBS containing Tween20).

[0075] In addition, in actual measurement, when measuring using a biochemistry automatic analysis machine (for example, the Hitachi make, a 7070 mold automatic analysis machine) (for example, when the about L amount of samples of 1-20micro and the about L 1-350micro amount of reagents are used suitably), following quantitative ratios and reaction time are preferably used as an example.

[0076]

Specimen: 6microL latex suspension: 188microL (reaction-time 5 minutes)

Monoclonal antibody: 120microL (reaction-time 5 minutes)

Second antibody: 60microL (reaction-time 5 minutes)

[0077]

[Example] Hereafter, the example of manufacture and an example explain the condensation immunoassay method of this invention still more concretely.

[0078] Compounded the peptide equivalent to the N-terminal-amino-acid array of an example of manufacture 1 (production of monoclonal antibody to glycopeptide epitope of hemoglobin A 1C beta chain amino terminal) hemoglobin beta chain, combined the glucose with alpha-amino group of Val which is an N terminal amino acid residue nonenzymatic, compounded glycopeptide, it was made to combine with carrier protein through a spacer further, and the monoclonal antibody was obtained by making it into immunogen.

[0079] Specifically, it carried out by [as being the following].

[0080] Fmoc-L-Valine, N alpha-Fmoc -Nim-Trityl-L-Histidine, Fmoc-L-Leucine, and Fmoc-O-t-Butyl-L-Threonine, Fmoc-L-Proline and Fmoc-s-trityl-L-Cysteine (all are made in a peptide lab) are used. Val-His-Leu-Thr-Pro-Cys And Val-His-Leu-Cys The peptide was compounded (in addition, Cys (cysteine) is a part of spacer). Composition was performed using the commercial peptide synthesis machine (Applied Biosystems, Model 430A). After peptide synthesis, the peptide was desorbed from the resin which is solid phase, and the rough peptide was obtained.

[0081] The rough peptide was melted to pure water so that it might become 1 mg/mL, and it cooled at 4 degrees C. It was dropped agitating 2 of the amount of 1.5 times as many mole ratios as this, and 2'-dithiodipyridine, it was made to react for 10 minutes, and the sulfhydryl group of a cysteine was protected. Sephadex after melting to an acetic acid 1% after freeze drying and carrying out centrifugal removal of the insoluble matter The peptide fractionation which carried out the gel filtration and which was obtained by G25 (15x900mm column) was freeze-dried. This peptide was melted to the acetic acid, the glucose of the amount of mole-ratio 2 double was added under pyridine existence, and it agitated for about ten days at the room temperature. Since the retention time (holding time) in HPLC became short when the peptide saccharified, the advance situation of a reaction was checked by HPLC.

[0082] The analysis conditions by HPLC are as follows.

[0083] Column: TSKgel, ODS-120A (4.6x250mm, TOSOH CORP. make)

device: -- Shimazu HPLC system mobile phase: -- straight-line inclination style from 10% acetonitrile / 0.1% trifluoroacetic acid to 60% acetonitrile / 0.1% trifluoroacetic acid **: -- 0.8 mL/min time amount: -- 25min monitor: -- absorbance 280nm -- this saccharification -- finally the peptide was refined by HPLC and it freeze-dried.

[0084] The separation conditions are as follows.

[0085] Column: TSKgel, ODS-120A (21.5x300mm, TOSOH CORP. make)

mobile phase: -- straight-line inclination style from 10% acetonitrile / 0.1% trifluoroacetic acid to 60% acetonitrile / 0.1% trifluoroacetic acid **: -- 5 mL/min monitor: -- absorbance since the above-mentioned peptide freeze-dried 280nm is melted to the 0.1M potassium phosphate buffer

solution (pH8.5) and it is desorbed from a cysteine protective group — DTT (Dithiotreitol) of the amount of 3 times Nitrogen gas was filled and was made to react in addition for 24 hours. and the above after lowering pH to 5 with a hydrochloric acid — the same — HPLC — refining — freeze-drying — final — saccharification — the peptide was obtained. However, it replaced with the absorbance of 280nm and the absorbance of 215nm was measured.

[0086] this saccharification — a peptide — as a spacer — EMCS (N-succinimidyl 6-maleimidocaproate) — using — a conventional method — carrier protein (it was made to combine with Edestin (both product made from Fluka) as Thyroglobulin and insoluble protein as a water soluble protein, and considered as immunogen.)

[0087] It is complete Freund's adjuvant (Complete Freund's Adjuvant) in the 100micro of the above-mentioned immunogens g. It considered as the w/o (water in oil) mold micell, and injected into Balb/c and the abdominal cavity of a mouse (eight weeks old). By the incomplete Freund's adjuvant (Incomplete Freund's Adjuvant), the booster made immunogen the w/o micell and performed it twice at intervals of one month. Subcutaneous injection of the immunogen under eating raw food (physiological sodium chloride solution) three days before cell fusion was carried out, and this was made into the booster.

[0088] Cell fusion was performed with the conventional method. That is, splenic cells were taken from the spleen, this was mixed with the mouse myeloma stock cell (PA1, ***** size, the Arai laboratory offer; available on a cancer research research source bank (JCRB)) at a rate of 10:1, and the cell was united by the polyethylene glycol 4000. The cell was made to float to a HAT medium, and it wound around 96 hole plate, and waited for syncytium to carry out clone growth. Screening is HbA1C or HbA0 beforehand. It carried out by making a culture supernatant react to the solid-phase-ized 96 hole ELISA plate. The after [washing] POD indicator anti-mouse IgG was made to react with the buffer solution, and it was made to color by o-phenylenediamine after washing.

[0089] More specifically, screening was performed by [as being the following].

[0090] After diluting HbA1c (refined material by BioRex70) with 0.05M citrate buffer solution (pH5.6) on the plate for 96 well ELISA (the product made from NUNC; NUNC-IMMUNOPLATE, MAXISORP F96 (4-42404)) so that the concentration may become at 5microg/mL, it was poured distributively every [50micro / L] on it at each well. This plate was left at 4 degrees C overnight, and HbA1c was solid-phase-ized on the ELISA plate.

[0091] After washing this plate 4 times by PBS-T (0.01M phosphate buffer solution and pH6.8/0.15M NaCl / 0.1% Tween 20), 50micro of culture supernatants L is added, and it was left for 2 hours and made to react at a room temperature (about 25 degrees C). After washing 4 times by PBS-T, the POD (peroxidase) indicator anti-mouse IgG (the product made from CAPPEL; 3711-0081) was diluted with PBS-T 2500 times, and was made to react at a room temperature 50microL In addition for 1 hour. They are after 4 times washing and a substrate solution (100micro [of phosphoric-acid-citrate buffer solution] (7.3g of citric-acid 1 hydrates, 23.9g of phosphoric-acid disodium 12 hydrates, and pure-water 1L/0.003%H₂ O₂) L [a 0.1%o-phenylenediamine /] in addition, after making it react for 30 minutes at a room temperature, 2N-sulfuric acid was 50microl added and the enzyme reaction was stopped.) at PBS-T.

[0092] Subsequently, it asked for the absorbance (OD) in 490nm of the solution after the above-mentioned enzyme reaction using the immuno plate reader (the product made from Dynatech, MR5000).

[0093] By carrying out like the above, they are a culture supernatant and HbA0 except having replaced with HbA1c used above and having used HbA0 (refined material by BioRex70).

Reactivity was able to be similarly searched for with OD value.

[0094] It reacts with HbA1c and is HbA0. HbA1c and the hybridoma which produces the monoclonal antibody which reacts specifically will exist in the well which does not react.

[0095] It reacts with HbA1C and is HbA0. The hybridoma of the well which does not react was cloned by limiting dilution. It is a hybridoma 1x10⁷ to the Balb/c mouse (nine to 10 weeks old) which carried out abdominal cavity injection of the pristane (sigma company make, P1403) 1mL for the clone one week ago beforehand after mass culture. Abdominal cavity injection of the cells was carried out with eating raw food (physiological saline), and the monoclonal antibody was

extracted as ascites in the place with which ascites was filled into the abdominal cavity.

[0096] Purification HbA1c used by above-mentioned ELISA, and HbA0 It is the following, and made and obtained.

[0097] That is, it is 2500rpm about the specimen (Homo sapiens blood) HbA1c indicates a high price (10% or more) to be. After carrying out centrifugal for 20 minutes and removing a plasma protein, the physiological saline of the amount of 5 times of an erythrocyte pellet was added, and centrifugal washing was performed twice. On the erythrocyte pellet after centrifugal, equivalent pure water was added and was hemolyzed. 15,000rpm supernatant liquid after carrying out centrifugal [high-speed] for 45 minutes and removing settlings — Bio Rex 70 (the product made from Bio Rad, 200-400 meshes, column size of 28x255mm) — using — HbA1 — C and HbA0 Fractionation was carried out (New Engl.J.Med.284,353-357 besides Trivelli and L.A., reference (1971)). When the purity of each fractionation was checked by HPLC, HbA1c is 80 - 90%, and HbA0. It was 99% or more. Measurement of protein concentration was performed as the attached manual using the protein determination reagent (the product made from Pierce, and BCA Protein Assay Reagent).

[0098] Through and Mouse IgG were refined for the mouse blood serum obtained from the example of manufacture 2 (production of anti-mouse IgG) normal Balb/C mouse in the Protein G (trade name: protein G super rose FF, Pharmacia manufacture) column. With complete Freund's adjuvant, it was made two weeks once and immunity of this purification mouse IgG100microg was made once to hypodermically [rabbit limbs] a total of 3 times (a total of 6 times) under back leather a total of 3 times at two weeks. The exsanguination was carried out seven days after the last immunity.

[0099] In 50micro of whole blood L extracted from example 1 Homo sapiens, pure-water 2mL is added, was hemolyzed, the hemolysis undiluted solution was prepared, and it diluted with GBS (glycine buffer solution; 0.05M glycine, and pH8.2/0.15MNaCl/0.02%NaN3) 8 times further, and considered as the specimen.

[0100] Into the polystyrene tube, the 100micro of the above-mentioned specimens L was taken, the latex suspension which diluted the particle-size latex of 0.087 micrometers (the Sekisui Chemical Co., Ltd. make, "latex lot number N-080 for reagents") with GBS to this, and was made into concentration 0.15% was 300microL Added, it was left for 5 minutes at the room temperature, and HbA1c in a specimen was made to stick to the above-mentioned latex.

[0101] Subsequently, what diluted the anti-HbA1c monoclonal antibody of the mouse ascites origin obtained in the example 1 of manufacture with GBS-T (what melted Tween 20 0.3% to GBS) 600 times was 200microL Added to the above-mentioned latex suspension, it was left for 5 minutes at 37 degrees C, and HbA1c and the above-mentioned monoclonal antibody by which the latex was adsorbed were made to react.

[0102] Furthermore, what diluted with the same GBS-T as the above the anti-mouse IgG rabbit antiserum (second antibody) obtained in the example 2 of manufacture 10 times was 25microL Added to this latex suspension, and it was left for 20 minutes at 37 degrees C, and the above-mentioned antiserum was made to react to the above-mentioned monoclonal antibody, and the alternative agglutination reaction of a latex was performed to it.

[0103] The quantum of extent of condensation was carried out by measuring an absorbance by 580nm using a spectrophotometer (made in Hitachi, a double beam spectrophotometer, 220A).

[0104] On the other hand, same measurement was performed about the laked blood of a washed red blood cell for the comparison.

[0105] That is, it is PBS (centrifugal [of 0.01M phosphate buffer solution pH7.4 and the 2mL included 0.15M NaCl] (1500rpm, 5 minutes) was added and carried out, and it washed by pelletizing an erythrocyte.) in 50micro of whole blood L. This pellet was hemolyzed in pure-water 2mL, and laked blood was obtained. Thus, the obtained laked blood was used as a specimen, and also it measured like the above.

[0106] The data obtained by the above are shown in drawing 1 . It is measured value (580nm absorbance (OD value)) when an axis of abscissa hemolyzes whole blood in drawing 1 , and measured value when an axis of ordinate hemolyzes a washed red blood cell is shown.

[0107] Carried out two fold serial dilution of the laked blood which hemolyzed the erythrocyte

washed like example 2 example 1, and used as a specimen, and it reacted under the following conditions, and also measured like the example 1.

[0108] Latex suspension: They are automatical measurement equipment and Hi-Auto at 0.05% of concentration, and a room temperature as a method of contrasting 5micro L latex method of reaction antiserum:undiluted solutions for 4 times many 20 part reaction MAb:culture supernatant [as this] dilution, 37 degrees C, and 20 minutes. A1C HbA1C was measured by the HPLC method with HA-8121 mold (product made from the first science of Kyoto), and correlation of the measured value of both a latex method and the HPLC method was searched for. A result is shown in drawing 2 . In drawing 2 , fractionation % of HbA1c to all hemoglobin showed HPLC measurement data. As shown in drawing 2 , the good correlation was seen between the latex method and the HPLC method.

[0109] Diluted the laked blood which hemolyzed the erythrocyte washed like example 3 example 1 one to 128 times, and used as a specimen, and it reacted under the following conditions, and also measured like the example 1.

[0110] Radix suspension: 0.05 - 0.4% of concentration and a room temperature show 5micro L measurement result of reaction antiserum:undiluted solutions to drawing 3 for reaction MAb:37 degree C and 20 minutes for 20 minutes. As shown in drawing 3 , even if it makes the dilution sequence of laked blood and presents a reaction, respectively, in the range of fixed dilution of laked blood, what no difference is in measurement data substantially (that is, not influenced by hemoglobin concentration) is understood. In addition, OD of drawing 3 The measured value of 580nm shows the value which deducted OD value before adding the anti-mouse IgG as a blank value.

[0111] one specimen (HbA1C 10.5%) of the example 4 washed-red-blood-cell origin -- other specimens (HbA1C5.7%) -- twice -- and diluted 4 times, and measured, latex suspension concentration was made into 0.2%, and also it measured like the example 2. As shown in drawing 4 , good quantum nature was seen in the latex method of this invention. The axis of abscissa of drawing 4 shows the percent of HbA1C10.5% of specimen laked blood mixed in HbA1C5.7% of specimen laked blood.

[0112] Reaction time with the example 5 first reaction, i.e., a specimen, and latex suspension was set as for 1 - 20 minutes, and also it measured like the example 1. A result is shown in drawing 5 . It turns out that adsorption of hemoglobin A 1c to a latex is performed for a short time.

[0113] The result of having set as for 1 - 20 minutes time amount to which the second reaction, i.e., an anti-hemoglobin A 1c monoclonal antibody, is made reacting, and also having measured like the example 1 is shown in drawing 6 . The reaction of the monoclonal antibody before adding the second antibody, and a latex also came out enough for a short time, and a certain thing was shown.

[0114] Moreover, the result of having measured 580nm O. D value change at the time of making the third reaction, i.e., the second antibody, reacting every 30 seconds, and also having measured like the example 1 is shown in drawing 7 . However, the third reaction was performed at the room temperature on account of measurement. As shown in drawing 7 , condensation of a latex draws a loose curve, is going up, and is presumed to be that from which high repeatability is acquired by ensuring control of time amount and temperature like a full automatic analysis machine.

[0115] Example 6HbA1c and HbA0 It diluted with eating raw food (physiological saline) to double **, respectively, and the dilution sequence was produced.

[0116] To 100micro of each of these dilution sequences L, the 0.2M glycine buffer solution (pH2.5) was 100microL Added, and it was left for 5 minutes in the room temperature. After 800microL Adding and stirring PBS-T (0.01M phosphate buffer solution pH6.8/0.15M NaCl/0.1% Tween 20) there, the anti-hemoglobin A 1c monoclonal antibody (a culture supernatant, 50 time dilution) was 100microL Added to the 100microL, and it was left for 30 minutes in the room temperature. Subsequently, 100microL of them was made to react at a room temperature beforehand for 2 hours in addition to 96 well plate which solid-phase-ized HbA1C (what added 5microg/mL and 100microL to 96 well plate, solid-phase-ized by leaving it overnight [4 degree-C], and was washed 4 times by PBS-T).

[0117] After carrying out four washing by PBS-T, the POD indicator anti-mouse IgG antibody

(the product made from CAPPEL, 3711-0081) (5000 time dilution) was 100microL Added, and it was made to react at a room temperature for 1 hour. Next actuation was performed like the time of the screening at the time of monoclonal antibody production. That is, the substrate reaction was performed for room temperature 30 minutes, the stop solution was added, and O. D value of 490nm was measured. The above is HbA1C or HbA0. It was made to denaturalize and they were what sees whether it checks that an anti-HbA1C monoclonal antibody reacts with solid-phase-ized HbA1C.

[0118] as contrast — HbA1 — C and HbA0 In order to make it react with un-denaturalizing, the same actuation as the above was performed except having changed into 100micro of pure water L the place which adds 100micro of glycine buffer solutions L.

[0119] A result is shown in drawing 8 . Although it reacted in an anti-HbA1C monoclonal antibody and the liquid phase and the reaction with solid-phase-ized HbA1C was checked when HbA1C was denatured as shown in drawing 8 , such inhibition was not seen by HbA1C which is not denatured, but it was shown that an anti-HbA1C monoclonal antibody does not react in the liquid phase. Moreover, HbA0 With an anti-HbA1C monoclonal antibody, it did not react irrespective of the existence of denaturation.

[0120]

[Effect of the Invention] According to this invention, the antigenic matter in a specimen is made to stick to an insoluble support particle, as mentioned above, and after making the monoclonal antibody which reacts to this antigenic matter specifically react, the condensation immunoassay method characterized by making the second antibody alternatively combined with this monoclonal antibody react further, and making an insoluble support particle condense alternatively is offered.

[0121] According to the condensation immunoassay method of this invention, it becomes very easy [also processing many specimens in juxtaposition to coincidence] simple, since measurement of the antigenic matter in a specimen is attained quickly, without performing complicated pretreatment. In addition, suitable for a biochemistry automatic analysis machine, since it is applicable, automation of measurement and the extensive processing of such an assay method are attained.

[0122] Furthermore, according to this invention, there is an advantageous point also about the point of manufacture of not only the assay method itself but a reagent. That is, generally manufacture of a latex reagent (the antigen, the antibody, etc. are combined with the latex) is not necessarily easy for making the thing of the same quality. Moreover, the know-how for preventing condensation and precipitate arising is also required during preservation. Generally, the cost of a material latex is low among the prices of a latex diagnostic drug, and a living thing ingredient and the cost which the process for covering to a latex particle takes it occupy half a fault of the price of a reagent.

[0123] Since it is also possible for sensitization of an antigen or the antibody not to be substantially carried out to insoluble support, such as a latex, but to use the insoluble support for commercial reagents (latex etc.) as they are according to this invention, it becomes on the other hand, less indispensable to manufacture new "latex reagent." In addition, it is not necessary to be necessarily a refined material and, and in this invention, since actuation of enzyme labeling etc. is also unnecessary, manufacture of a measurement reagent becomes easy and it is very advantageous also about an antibody, also in respect of preservation stability.

[Translation done.]

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DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[Brief Description of the Drawings]

[Drawing 1] It is the graph which shows the comparison of the measurement data of the case where the specimen which hemolyzed whole blood is used, and the case where the specimen which hemolyzed the washed red blood cell is used.

[Drawing 2] It is the graph which shows correlation of the measurement data based on the HPLC method, and the measurement data based on the condensation immunoassay method of this invention.

[Drawing 3] It is the graph which shows change of the measurement data to the dilution sequence of laked blood.

[Drawing 4] It is the graph which shows the quantum nature of the condensation immunoassay method of this invention two fold serial dilution and at the time of diluting 4 times for one specimen by other specimens.

[Drawing 5] The time amount which makes HbA1C stick to a latex is a graph for explaining the effect which gives the measured value by the condensation immunoassay method of this invention.

[Drawing 6] The time amount to which an anti-HbA1C monoclonal antibody is made to react is a graph for explaining the effect which it has on the measured value by the condensation immunoassay method of this invention.

[Drawing 7] The time amount to which the second antibody is made to react is a graph for explaining the effect which it has on the measured value by the condensation immunoassay method of this invention.

[Drawing 8] Although an anti-HbA1C monoclonal antibody reacts to an ELISA plate with solid-phase-ized HbA1C, HbA1C which HbA1C in the liquid phase did not react, but was denatured in the liquid phase is a graph which shows that it reacts.

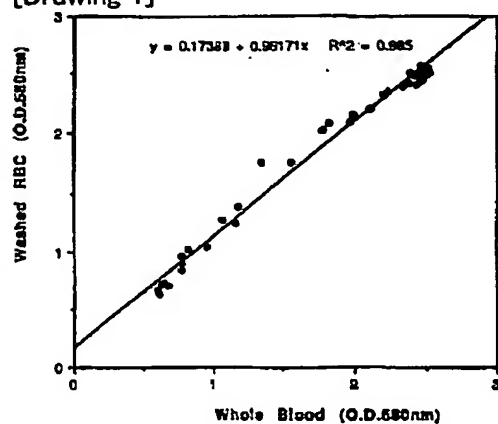
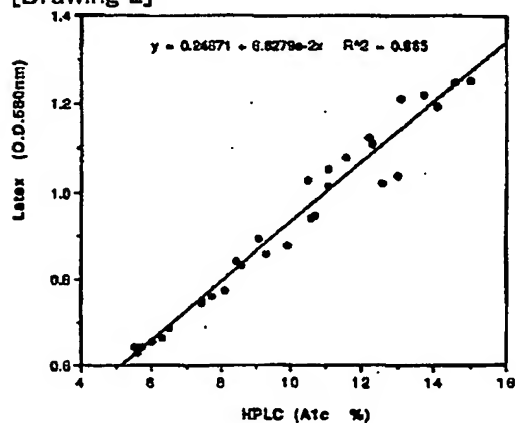
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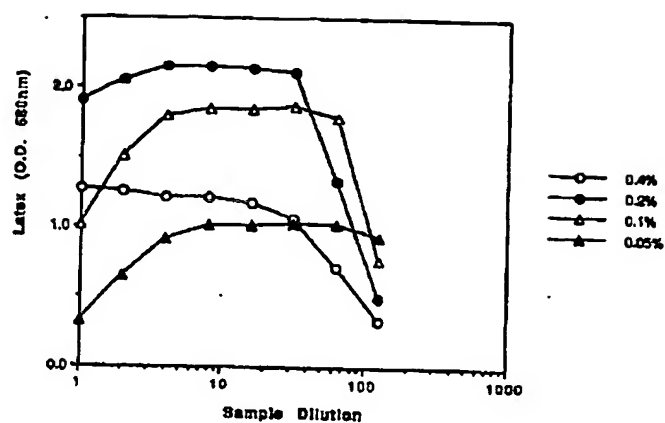
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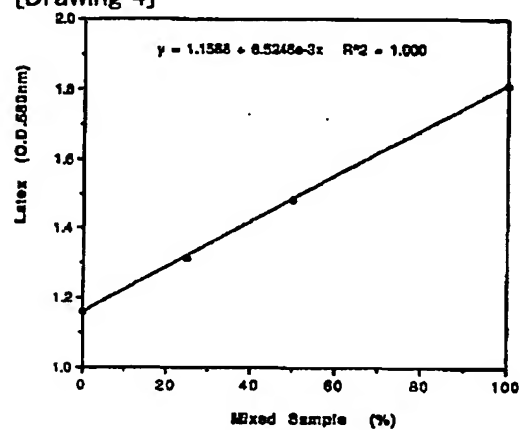
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DRAWINGS

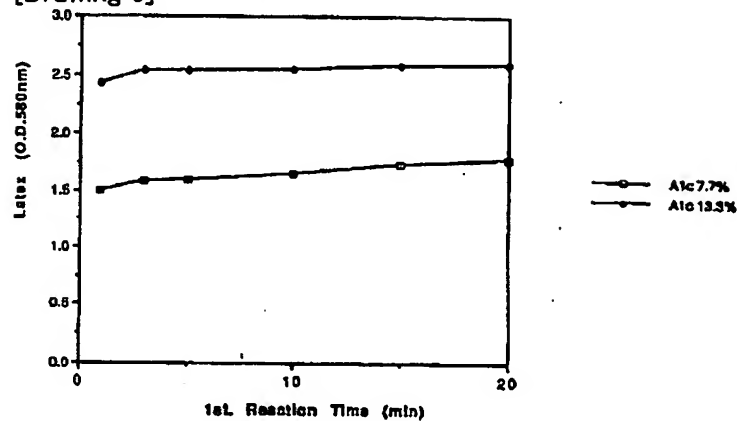
[Drawing 1]**[Drawing 2]****[Drawing 3]**



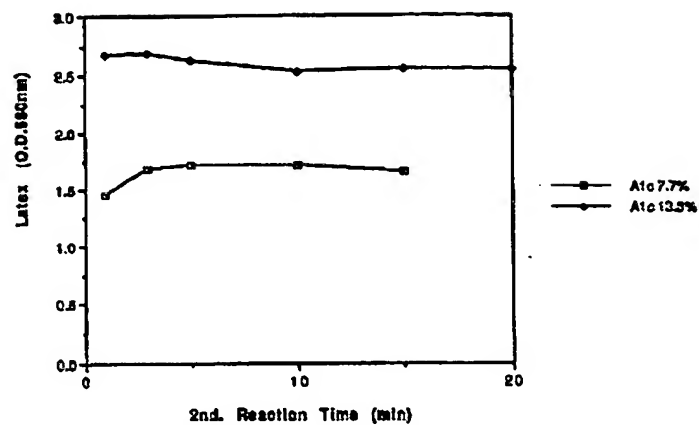
[Drawing 4]



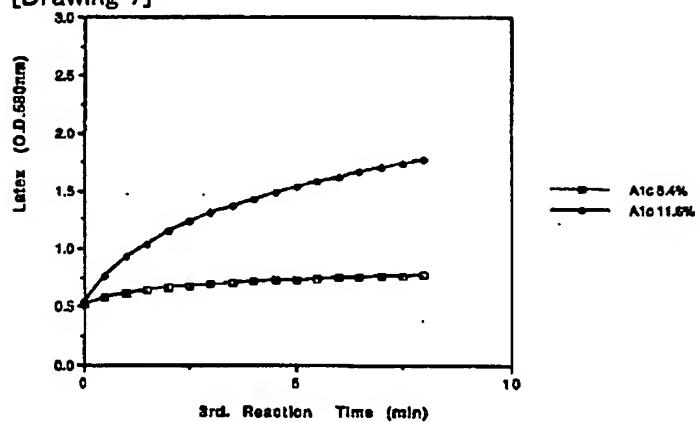
[Drawing 5]



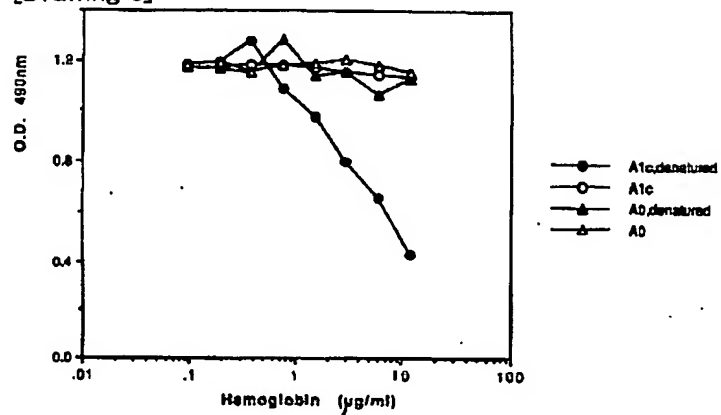
[Drawing 6]



[Drawing 7]



[Drawing 8]



[Translation done.]

(19)日本国特許庁(JP)

(12)公開特許公報(A)

(11)特許出願公開番号

特開平6-167495

(43)公開日 平成6年(1994)6月14日

(51)Int.Cl. ⁴	識別記号	庁内整理番号	FI	技術表示箇所
G 0 1 N 33/543	F	9217-2J		
33/577	A	9015-2J		
// G 0 1 N 33/541		8310-2J		

審査請求 未請求 請求項の数8(全13頁)

(21)出願番号 特願平5-165631

(22)出願日 平成5年(1993)7月5日

(31)優先権主張番号 特願平4-208535

(32)優先日 平4(1992)7月14日

(33)優先権主張国 日本(JP)

(71)出願人 390037006

株式会社エスアールエル

東京都新宿区西新宿2丁目4番1号

(72)発明者 平田 稔

東京都八王子市小宮町51 株式会社エスア

ールエル八王子ラボラトリー内

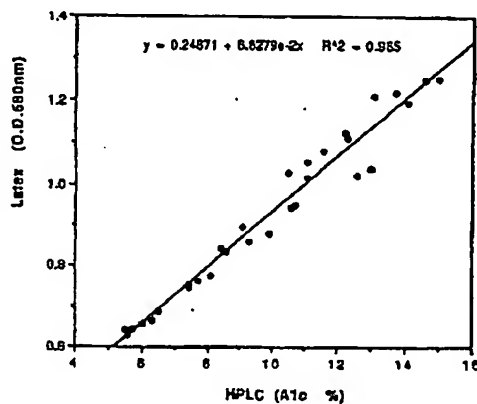
(74)代理人 弁理士 長谷川 芳樹 (外4名)

(54)【発明の名称】 凝集イムノアッセイ法

(57)【要約】

【構成】 被検試料中の抗原性物質を不溶性担体粒子に吸着させ、該抗原性物質に特異的に反応するモノクローナル抗体を反応させた後、該モノクローナル抗体に選択的に結合する第二抗体を更に反応させて上記不溶性担体粒子を選択的に凝集させる。

【効果】 煩雑な前処理を行うことなく、簡便かつ迅速に被検試料中の抗原性物質の測定が可能となり、同時に多数検体を並列的に処理することも極めて容易となる。更に、上記の測定法を生化学自動分析機に適用することにより、測定の自動化による検体の大量処理が可能となる。



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【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】 被検試料中の抗原性物質を不溶性担体粒子に吸着もしくは結合させ、該抗原性物質に特異的に反応するモノクローナル抗体を反応させた後に、該モノクローナル抗体に選択的に結合する第二抗体を更に反応させて、不溶性担体粒子を選択的に凝集させることを特徴とする凝集イムノアッセイ法。

【請求項2】 被検試料中の抗原性物質を不溶性担体粒子に吸着もしくは結合させた後、該被検試料を洗浄により除去することなく、抗原性物質に特異的に反応するモノクローナル抗体を反応させる請求項1記載の凝集イムノアッセイ法。

【請求項3】 前記不溶性担体粒子が、水性液体媒体に実質的に不溶性である有機高分子物質の微粒子および／又は無機物質の微粒子からなる請求項1または2記載の凝集イムノアッセイ法。

【請求項4】 前記不溶性担体粒子が、平均粒径0.04～0.8ミクロンの範囲の粒子である請求項1又は2記載の凝集イムノアッセイ法。

【請求項5】 前記不溶性担体粒子がラテックス粒子である請求項3記載の凝集イムノアッセイ法。

【請求項6】 前記不溶性担体粒子がポリスチレンラテックス粒子である請求項5記載の凝集イムノアッセイ法。

【請求項7】 前記モノクローナル抗体が、ネイティブな状態で液相中に存在する抗原性物質には反応せず、不溶性担体に固相化された抗原性物質には特異的に反応するモノクローナル抗体である請求項1又は2記載の凝集イムノアッセイ法。

【請求項8】 前記不溶性担体粒子が、表面処理した微粒子からなる請求項1又は2記載の凝集イムノアッセイ法。

【発明の詳細な説明】

【0001】

【産業上の利用分野】本発明は、生体試料などの液体中における抗原性物質を、凝集反応を利用して免疫学的に測定する方法（凝集イムノアッセイ法）に関する。更には、本発明はこのような凝集イムノアッセイ法に好適に用いることが可能なモノクローナル抗体に関する。

【0002】

【従来の技術】近時、病院、検査センター等においては、人手不足、コスト削減、あるいは多量検体処理の要請等の点から、臨床検査等の諸検査の自動化、および／又は測定時間の短縮化が図られてきた。このような自動化に適した方法として、不溶性担体粒子の凝集反応を利用して、抗原性物質を定性ないし定量する凝集法が注目されるに至っている。

【0003】免疫化学分野においては、凝集法としてラテックス凝集イムノアッセイ法が主として行われてきた。当該分野において公知のラテックス凝集法とは、例

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えば特公昭58-11575号公報に記載されているように、生体試料などの液体（被検試料）中における抗原性物質を測定する場合、該被検試料と、該抗原物質に特異的に結合する抗体もしくはそのフラグメントを担持させたラテックスとを混合して、ラテックスの凝集の程度を測定することにより、前記抗原性物質を検出又は定量するものである。

【0004】この場合、上記抗体としては、通常ポリクローナル抗体が用いられる。モノクローナル抗体は、抗原分子上の特定のエピトープとのみ反応するため、該抗原性物質が多価抗原である場合でも、特定のエピトープに関しては多価であるとは限らない。従って、上記抗体としてモノクローナル抗体を用いた場合は、その抗原は、特定のモノクローナル抗体に対応するエピトープに関しては、一価抗原となる可能性が高くなる。

【0005】測定の目的とする抗原物質が一価抗原である場合、ラテックスに担持された抗体と試料中の該抗原性物質とが反応もしくは結合しても、通常、凝集は起こらない。この場合、抗体を担持させたラテックスと、このラテックスを凝集させることの出来る凝集素としてのポリハプテンと、被検試料とを混合し、反応させて、被検試料中の抗原性物質がラテックス凝集をどの程度阻害したかを測定することにより、該抗原性物質を検出又は定量する方法（凝集阻害法）が当該分野において公知である。

【0006】従って、多価抗原である蛋白抗原の場合、モノクローナル抗体を用いた凝集法においては、上記した理由で抗原エピトープに関して一価となる可能性があるため、このような蛋白抗原の測定に際しては、その抗原エピトープの部分を含むポリハプテンを用いた凝集阻害法による測定に頼らざるを得ないこととなる。

【0007】したがって一価抗原をモノクローナル抗体を用いて測定する場合、凝集素としてのポリハプテンが新たに必要となるが、そのポリハプテンが生体試料中のネイティブな抗原性物質と同一の反応性を示す保証はない。

【0008】ポリクローナル抗体を用いた通常のラテックス凝集法と、モノクローナル抗体を用いたラテックス凝集阻害法とを比較してみれば、ポリクローナル抗体は同じ品質のものを常に得ることは難しく、特異抗体に精製する段階での該抗体の損失も大きいものに対し、モノクローナル抗体はその点、品質の一定した抗体の大量生産に向いている。このような品質の安定性の点からはモノクローナル抗体の方が有利であるが、モノクローナル抗体を用いた場合、上述したようにラテックス凝集阻害法を用いざるを得ないという難点がある。このような点を考慮して、ポリクローナル抗体を用いた通常のラテックス凝集法が用いられているのが現状である。

【0009】モノクローナル抗体を用いる場合、当然のことであるが、凝集素としてのポリハプテンと反応する

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モノクローナル抗体を用いることになるが、そのモノクローナル抗体がネイティブな抗原性物質とは反応しない場合もある。このような場合、ネイティブな抗原性物質の反応性をポリハプテンの反応性に近づけるための何らかの処理が必要となると考えられる。

【0010】上述したような諸欠点から、当該分野における公知のラテックス凝集法（ないしラテックス凝集阻害法）の限界は明らかである。

【0011】より具体的には、従来のラテックス凝集法においては、分子内に同じエпитーブを複数含む糖鎖抗原の場合を除いては、特定のエピトープしか認識しないモノクローナル抗体は一般的には使用できない。この場合、凝集素であるポリハプテンとモノクローナル抗体は反応しても、モノクローナル抗体とネイティブな抗原性物質とは反応せず、何らかの処理が必要になる可能性が高い。これは、蛋白抗原の場合、抗体との反応性においては該蛋白抗原の高次構造が重要な役割を果たしているのに対し、凝集素であるポリハプテンはペプチドのポリマー（ないしオリゴマー）であり、上記蛋白抗原そのものとは立体構造が異なることによると考えられる。

【0012】従って、本発明の目的の一つは、抗原性物質に対する新たな凝集イムノアッセイ法を提供することにある。

【0013】より具体的には、本発明の目的は、モノクローナル抗体を用いつつ、より単純で、凝集素を必要としない凝集イムノアッセイ法を提供することにある。

【0014】本発明の他の目的は、より安定で単純な凝集試薬を用いる凝集イムノアッセイ法を提供することにある。

【0015】

【課題を解決するための手段】本発明者は鋭意研究の結果、被検試料中の抗原性物質の測定に際して該抗原性物質に特異的なモノクローナル抗体を担持させた不溶性担体粒子を用いるのではなく、測定試料たる該抗原性物質自体を不溶性担体粒子に吸着させ、該抗原物質に特異的なモノクローナル抗体を反応させ、さらに該モノクローナル抗体に選択的に反応する第二抗体を作用させることにより、上記不溶性担体粒子が選択的に凝集することを見出した。

【0016】本発明のラテックス凝集イムノアッセイ法は上記知見に基くものであり、より詳しくは、被検試料中の抗原性物質を不溶性担体粒子に吸着もしくは結合させ、該抗原物質に特異的に反応するモノクローナル抗体を反応させた後に、該モノクローナル抗体に選択的に結合する第二抗体を更に反応させて、不溶性担体粒子を選択的に凝集させることを特徴とするものである。

【0017】本発明においては、定量性確保を容易とする点からは、生体試料の濃度及び不溶性担体粒子懸濁液の緩衝液濃度などは、生体試料中の抗原性物質がその存

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在量に比例して不溶性担体粒子に吸着されるように、測定項目の特性により条件を選ぶことが好ましい。

【0018】本発明においては、不溶性担体粒子に吸着させるべき抗原性物質が多価抗原であるか一価抗原であるかは問題ではない。ただし、微量な生体成分や不溶性担体粒子への吸着が困難な抗原性物質の測定には、本発明の適用は必ずしも容易ではない。

【0019】被検試料中の抗原性物質を不溶性担体粒子に吸着させて、該抗原性物質に特異的に反応するモノクローナル抗体を反応させる場合、固相化されずに液相中に残った抗原性物質（即ち未吸着の抗原性物質）の存在が測定値に影響を与える場合がある。

【0020】より具体的には、上記モノクローナル抗体が、不溶性担体粒子に吸着された抗原性物質のみならず、未吸着の抗原性物質とも反応すると、不溶性担体粒子の凝集が阻害されることになり、不都合が生じる。不溶性担体粒子に抗原性物質を吸着させた後に、該不溶性担体を洗浄して未吸着の抗原性物質を除去することでこの不都合は解決可能であるが、このような洗浄工程の付加は、本発明の凝集イムノアッセイの実用性ないし迅速性を低下させる可能性がある。

【0021】生体試料中の抗原性物質の濃度分布が大きな幅を持たない場合は、不溶性担体に吸着される抗原性物質の比率を高くすることで、未吸着の抗原性物質の量を実質的に問題とならない量として取り扱うことが可能であるが、濃度分布が非常に広い場合には、このような吸着量の増大は必ずしも容易ではない。

【0022】本発明者はこのような点を考慮しつつ更に研究を進めた結果、上記本発明においては、上記モノクローナル抗体を液相中の抗原性物質と実質的に反応させることなく、不溶性担体に吸着・固相化された抗原性物質と選択的に反応させることが可能であることを見いだした。従って、本発明の好ましい態様によれば、上記凝集イムノアッセイ法において、被検試料中の抗原性物質を不溶性担体に吸着させた後、該被検試料を洗浄により除去することなく、前記抗原性物質に対するモノクローナル抗体を反応させることが可能となる。

【0023】すなわち、本発明のより好ましい具体例においては、使用するモノクローナル抗体として、不溶性担体粒子に吸着された抗原とは反応するが、液相中の未吸着の抗原性物質とは反応しないものを選ぶことにより、未吸着成分による凝集阻害作用を完全に除外することが可能となる。

【0024】この様なモノクローナル抗体はKoehler & Milstein (Nature, 256, 495~497, 1975)らの報告した細胞融合法により得ることが出来る。この方法自体は常法であり、あらためて述べる必要はないが、この方法においては、目的とするモノクローナル抗体を産生するハイブリドーマ細胞を効率よく選別する必要がある。大量検体処理が容

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易であることから、96穴プレートに所定の抗原を固相化させ、それにハイブリドーマ細胞の培養上清を反応させ、更に酵素標識抗マウスIgGを反応させる、いわゆるELISA法（酵素免疫測定法）による選別が行われることが多い。この際、抗原は固相化されているため、抗原が固相化されている状態で抗体を反応させるアッセイ系を組む場合には、この選別法でよいが、ELISA法で選別して得たハイブリドーマ細胞の産生するモノクローナル抗体の中に、ラジオイムノアッセイ（RIA）のように、抗原と抗体とを液相中で反応させるアッセイ系では反応しないという抗体が存在する場合がある、見受けられることがある。

【0025】このような現象自体は当該分野においては公知ないし周知のことであり、このようなモノクローナル抗体を使うことにより、液相中の抗原性物質の阻害を受けずに、不溶性担体粒子に固相化された抗原性物質と特異的に反応させることが可能となる。

【0026】本発明によれば、不溶性担体粒子に吸着された抗原性物質に、該抗原性物質に特異的なモノクローナル抗体を反応させた後、該モノクローナル抗体に選択的に反応する第二抗体を作用させることにより、不溶性担体の選択的な凝集を起こすことが出来る。

【0027】以上、本発明による凝集イムノアッセイ法による詳細について述べてきたが、上述したように本発明によれば、試薬の製造が単純、容易であるため、保存安定性の高い試薬を用いた方法を提供することが出来る。

【0028】より具体的には、当該分野においては、不溶性担体として一般にラテックスが用いられているが、このラテックス試薬（抗原、抗体等が担持されたラテックス）について、常に同等の品質のものを作り、非特異凝集や沈殿が生ずることを防止しつつ、安定な状態で保存することは容易なことではない。

【0029】これに対し、本発明によれば、不溶性担体（ラテックス等）に抗原や抗体は実質的に感作されていないため、該不溶性担体として市販の未感作ラテックスをそのまま使用することが可能となる。更に抗体についても必ずしも精製品である必要はなく、また試薬が単純なため保存安定性を高く保つことが可能となり、製造業者にとっても有利な方法といえる。

【0030】以下、必要に応じて図面を参照しつつ、本発明を更に詳細に説明する。

【0031】（不溶性担体粒子）本発明の凝集イムノアッセイ法の開発過程において、本発明者は、抗原性物質を不溶性担体に固相化する時間は極めて短いことを観察した。そこで、本発明者は、抗原性物質を含む水溶液の被検試料をそのまま不溶性担体に固相化することを試み、本発明を完成するに至った。

【0032】本発明に用いる不溶性担体としては、例えば、従来技術（特公昭58-11575号公報等）に

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うところの有機高分子物質の微粒子や、無機酸化物の微粒子、あるいは核となるこれらの物質の表面を有機物等で表面処理した微粒子が好ましく用いられるが、これらに制限されるものではない。本発明においては、上記不溶性担体として、ポリスチレンラテックス等のラテックスが特に好ましく用いられる。本来ラテックスとは、ゴムの木を傷付けたときに浸出する乳液のことであるが、本発明でいうラテックスとは、水性液中において不連続な微粒子が懸濁している懸濁液ないし乳液をいう。

【0033】定性反応で用いる場合を除き、定量的にイムノアッセイを行う場合、通常は、粒子の大きさの均一性、表面状態の制御、内部構造の選択などが高度の次元で要求されるが、このような試薬向けの良好なラテックス粒子は、市販品の中から選択して用いることが可能である。

【0034】例えば、ラテックス粒子としては、平均粒径0.04～0.8ミクロン（更には0.08～0.2ミクロン）程度のものが好ましく用いられる。被検試料中の抗原性物質を効率良くラテックスに吸着ないし結合させる点からは、平均粒径が小さいラテックスの方が単位重量パーセント当たりの表面積が大きいので好ましい。

【0035】ラテックスの材質は特に制限されないが、ポリスチレンラテックス等のスチレン系ラテックス、アクリル酸系ラテックス等が好ましく用いられる。表面の疎水性が強いラテックス（例えばポリスチレンラテックス）を用いることは、タンパク質ないしペプチドの吸着をスムーズにする上で好ましい。更には、種々の変性ラテックス（例えば、カルボン酸変性ラテックス）、磁性ラテックス（磁性粒子を内包させたラテックス）等が必要に応じて用いてもよい。

【0036】ラテックス粒子としては、乳化剤を用いない乳化重合によって得られるポリスチレン粒子が特に好ましく用いられる。このようなラテックスは、表面の負電荷同士の反発に基づき、乳化剤なしでも安定に存在できる。

【0037】被検試料中の抗原性物質をラテックス粒子に吸着させるためには、ラテックス粒子を懸濁させる緩衝液については、ELISA等でプレートに抗原を固相化させる場合と基本的に同じ技術が使用可能である。ラテックス粒子によっては、自然凝集を起こしやすいものもあるが、このような場合には、弱アルカリ性のグリシン緩衝液もしくはホウ酸緩衝液に懸濁させておくことが安定性の点から好ましい。ラテックス濃度に関しては、0.05～1重量パーセントの懸濁液として用いることが好ましい。

【0038】（抗原-抗体反応）本発明においては、被検試料中の抗原性物質を固相化した後、該抗原性物質に対して特異的に反応するモノクローナル抗体を反応させる。この際に用いるモノクローナル抗体溶液は、該抗体

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がラテックス等からなる不溶性担体に吸着するのを防ぐために、Tween 20等の界面活性剤を0.1~0.3%程度含んでいることが好ましい。

【0039】本発明においては、次いで該モノクローナル抗体に選択的に反応する第二抗体を反応させてラテックス等からなる不溶性担体を凝集させる。

【0040】(凝集反応) 本発明の凝集反応を行う容器は特に限定されないが、通常のチューブ(試験管; 例えばポリスチレン製) 状の容器を用いることが可能である。多数検体の同時処理が容易な点を考慮すれば、複数のウェル(穴)を有するELISA用プレート(例えば、96-ウェルELISA用プレート(NUNC-IMMUNO PLATE等)を用いることが可能である。後述するように、光学的手法によるラテックス凝集の測定を容易とする点からは、実質的に透明な容器を用いて反応を行うことが好ましい。なお、後述するような自動分析機を利用する場合には、通常は、該分析機中の反応槽中で凝集反応を行わせることとなる。

【0041】(凝集の測定) 不溶性担体粒子の凝集の程度を測定する方法は、特に制限されない。例えば、凝集を定性的ないし半定量的に測定する場合には、既知の試料の濁度の程度との比較から、上記不溶性担体粒子の凝集の程度を目視によって判定する(凝集の少ないものは透明感がある)ことも可能である。該凝集を定量的に測定する場合、簡便性の点からは、例えば光学的に測定することが好ましい。

【0042】ラテックス等からなる不溶性担体粒子の凝集の光学的測定法としては、公知の方法が利用可能である。より具体的には例えば、いわゆる比濁法(凝集塊の形成を濁度の増加としてとらえる)、粒度分布による測定法(凝集塊の形成を粒度分布ないし平均粒径の変化としてとらえる)、積分球濁度法(凝集塊の形成による前方散乱光の変化を積分球を用いて測定し、透過光強度との比を測定する)等の種々の方式が利用可能である。これらのそれぞれの測定法について、速度試験(レートアッセイ; 異なる時点で少なくとも2つの測定値を得て、これらの時点間における該測定値の増加分(すなわち増加速度)に基づき凝集の程度を求める)と、終点試験(エンドポイントアッセイ; ある時点(通常は、反応の終点と考えられる時点)で1つの測定値を得て、この測定値に基づき凝集の程度を求める)が利用可能である。測定の簡便さ、迅速性の点からは、比濁法を用いた速度試験を行うことが好ましい。

【0043】不溶性担体粒子の凝集の光学的測定においては、ラテックス等からなる不溶性担体粒子の平均粒径が0.04~0.8ミクロン程度の範囲では、500~1400nm程度の波長の光を用いて測定することが好ましい。

【0044】(抗原性物質) 本発明の凝集イムノアッセイ法により測定される抗原性物質は、不溶性担体への吸

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着(ないし結合)が可能で、且つ該抗原性物質に対応するモノクローナル抗体の作成ないし入手が可能である限り特に制限されないが、不溶性担体への吸着の容易性の点からは生体試料中に1mg/mL以上含まれる物質であることが好ましく、また、上記モノクローナル抗体作成の容易性の点からは、分子量10,000以上の物質(蛋白質等)であることが好ましい。

【0045】(ヘモグロビンA_{1c}の測定例) 本発明の凝集イムノアッセイ法の特徴をよく示す一つの実施形態として、以下にヘモグロビンA_{1c}(HbA_{1c})の測定例について述べるが、本発明の凝集イムノアッセイ法はヘモグロビンA_{1c}の測定に限定されるものではない。

【0046】ここに上記「ヘモグロビンA_{1c}」は、ヘモグロビン(Hb)のβ鎖N末端のアミノ酸残基であるバリンのα-アミノ基にグルコースが非酵素的に結合し、グリコシル化ヘモグロビンとなったものであり、このヘモグロビンA_{1c}の血中量は糖尿病の比較的長期の血糖コントロール状態を反映する。したがって、このHbA_{1c}を測定することは、血糖コントロール状態を知る上で臨床的に極めて有意義である(例えば、日本臨床、48、増刊号、315~322(1990)参照)。

【0047】ヘモグロビンはα鎖2本、β鎖2本からなるヘテロテトラマーであるが、ヘモグロビンA_{1c}は2本のβ鎖のうち1本のN末端のα-アミノ基がグリコシル化していることが特徴であり、従って、ヘモグロビンA_{1c}に特徴的な反応部位は1カ所である。換言すれば、ヘモグロビンA_{1c}に特異的なモノクローナル抗体との反応性の面からは、ヘモグロビンA_{1c}は一価抗原として機能する。

【0048】ヘモグロビンA_{1c}を測定するに際しては、従来技術を用いてラテックス凝集阻害法により測定を行うことが考えられるが、特開平1-150857号公報によれば、ラテックスに担持させたモノクローナル抗体は凝集素であるポリハブテンとは反応して凝集を起すが、生体試料中のネイティブなヘモグロビンA_{1c}はモノクローナル抗体とは反応せず、そのために被検試料に例えば塩酸グアニジンを加えて56℃、15分間加熱する等の前処理が必要とされている。

【0049】ヘモグロビンA_{1c}の測定に関しては、更に特有问题があった。すなわち、ヘモグロビンA_{1c}は従来より高速液体クロマトグラフィー(HPLC)によって測定され、全ヘモグロビン中のヘモグロビンA_{1c}の分画%が求められてきた。従って、上記特開平1-150857号公報によれば、ラテックス凝集阻害法を行ってヘモグロビンA_{1c}の分画%を求めるためには、別途ヘモグロビンの定量を行うことが必須であった。

【0050】本発明の凝集イムノアッセイ法によれば、ヘモグロビンA_{1c}の測定に関しては、例えば、被検試料(例えば、全血に精製水を加えて溶血したもの)をラテックス(不溶性担体)に吸着させ、抗ヘモグロビンA_{1c}

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モノクローナル抗体を反応させた後、更に抗マウスIgG(第二抗体)を加えることにより、ラテックスの選択的凝集を起こさせることが出来、この選択的凝集の程度を測定することにより、ヘモグロビンA_{1c}を定量することができる。HPLCで測定したヘモグロビンA_{1c}%値が既知の標準試料を、本発明の凝集イムノアッセイ法により同時に定量して検量線を作成することにより、この検量線に基づき未知の試料のヘモグロビンA_{1c}の分画%値を求めることができる。

【0051】(抗HbA_{1c}モノクローナル抗体)抗HbA_{1c}モノクローナル抗体としては、吸着ないし固相化されたHbA_{1c}に対して実質的に反応し、固相化されたHbA₀と実質的に反応しない(好ましくは、更に液相中のHbA_{1c}及びHbA₀と実質的に反応しない)抗HbA_{1c}モノクローナル抗体であれば、特に制限なく用いることができる。本発明者の検討によれば、一般に、糖化ペプチドを抗原としてモノクローナル抗体を作製すると、このようなモノクローナル抗体を得ることができる。ここでHbA_{1c}およびHbA₀に対する反応性は、例えば以下のようにして測定可能である。

【0052】例えば、固相化されたHbA_{1c}と反応し、HbA₀とは反応しないことは次のようにして測定することが可能である。

【0053】96穴(ウェル)ELISA用プレート(例えばNUNC社;NUNC-IMMUNO PLATE, MAXISORP F96(4-42404))にHbA_{1c}(例えば、EXOCELL社製;精製HbA_{1c})を、その濃度が5μg/mLになるように0.05Mクエン酸緩衝液(pH5.6)で希釈した後、各ウェルに50μLづつ分注する。このプレートを4℃で一晩放置してHbA_{1c}をELISAプレートに固相化する。

【0054】このプレートをPBS-T(0.01Mリン酸緩衝液pH6.8/0.15MNaCl/0.1%Tween 20)で4回洗浄した後、抗HbA_{1c}モノクローナル抗体を含む試料(例えば、ハイブリドーマ培養上清)50μLを加え、室温(約25℃)で2時間放置して反応させる。PBS-Tで4回プレートを洗浄した後、POD(ペルオキシダーゼ)標識抗マウスIgG(例えばCAPPEL社製;3711-0081)をPBS-Tで5000倍希釈し、50μL加え、室温で1時間反応させる。

【0055】PBS-Tで4回洗浄後、基質溶液(0.1% o-フェニレンジアミン(シグマ社製)/リン酸-クエン酸緩衝液(クエン酸1水和物7.3g/リン酸2ナトリウム12水和物23.9g/純水1L)/0.003% H₂O₂)100μLを加え、室温で30分間反応させた後、2N-硫酸を50μL加え、酵素反応を停止させる。次いで、イムノプレートリーダー(ダイナテック社製;MR5000)を用いて上記酵素反応後の溶液の490nmにおける吸光度(OD)を求める。

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【0056】上記で用いたHbA_{1c}に代えてHbA₀(例えばEXOCELL社製;精製HbA₀)を用いる以外は上記と同様に実施することにより、モノクローナル抗体とHbA₀との反応性を同様にOD値で求めることができる。

【0057】本発明においては、抗HbA_{1c}モノクローナル抗体は、HbA_{1c}と上記イムノプレートリーダーのスケールで1.0以上(更には2.0以上)の反応性を示すことが好ましく、また、HbA₀とは0.1以下(更には0.05以下)の反応性を示すことが好ましい。

【0058】一方、上記したモノクローナル抗体が、固相化したHbA_{1c}とは反応するが、液相中のHbA_{1c}やHbA₀とは反応しないことは、次のようにして測定可能である。

【0059】HbA_{1c}100μLに対して0.2Mグリシン緩衝液(pH2.5)を100μL加え、室温に5分間放置する。そこにPBS-Tを800μL加え、攪拌したのち、その100μLに抗ヘモグロビンA_{1c}モノクローナル抗体(ハイブリドーマ培養上清、50倍希釈)を100μL加え、室温に30分間放置する。そして、そのうちの100μLを、あらかじめHbA_{1c}を固相化(5μg/mL、100μLを96穴プレートに加え、4℃で一晩放置することにより固相化し、PBS-Tで4回洗浄したもの)した96穴プレートに加え、室温で2時間反応させる。

【0060】PBS-Tで洗浄4回行なった後POD標識抗マウスIgG抗体(5000倍希釈)を100μL加え、室温で1時間反応させる。PBS-Tで4回洗浄後基質反応を室温30分間行ない、停止液を加えて490nmのOD値を測定する。上記で用いたHbA_{1c}に代えて、HbA₀を用いる以外は上記と同様に実施し、モノクローナル抗体とHbA₀との液相中での反応性を求めることができる。

【0061】以上はヘモグロビンを変性させた場合であり、対照として、HbA_{1c}、HbA₀を未変性のまま反応させるため、グリシン緩衝液100μLを加えるところを純水100μLに変更した以外は上記と同様に実施し、液相中でのモノクローナル抗体との反応性を求めることができる。

【0062】本発明においては、抗HbA_{1c}モノクローナル抗体は、未変性のHbA_{1c}やHbA₀、さらには変性したHbA₀などとは、液相中では10μg/mL(更には20μg/mL)でも反応性を示さず、一方、変性HbA_{1c}とは液相中で1μg/mL(更には0.5μg/mL)以下でも反応性を示すことが好ましい。

【0063】本測定においては、HbA_{1c}およびHbA₀は精製して用いることが好ましい。この精製HbA_{1c}およびHbA₀としては市販品を用いることが可能であるが、適当な市販品が無ければ、HPLCで精製して用

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いてもよい。この精製においては、たとえば、ヒト全血50 μ LをPBS 2mLで遠心洗浄し、上清を捨て、赤血球であるペレットに純水2mLを加えて溶血させる。これをHPLCで分離し、HbA_{1c}とHbA₀のピークを分取する。

【0064】HPLCの分離条件は、たとえば以下の条件が好ましく用いられる。

【0065】分析機器：島津HPLCシステム

カラム：ヘモグロビン分離用高分解能カラム MICROPEARL (積水化学工業株)

溶離液A：Low Phosphate、(Auto A_{1c}、P type (京都第一化学))

溶離液B：High Phosphate、(リン酸1カリ8.5g、リン酸2カリ12.5g、塩化カリウム3.5g、純水1L)

移動相：A+B

0~3.5min B濃度 0%

3.5~4.0min B濃度 0%から80%へのグラジエント

4.0~17.0min B濃度 80%

流速：1mL/min

モニター：吸光度 415nm

サンプル量：20 μ L

(抗HbA_{1c}モノクローナル抗体と結合する抗体)

上記した抗HbA_{1c}モノクローナル抗体(以下、モノクローナル抗体を「MAb」とも記載する)と選択的に結合する抗体(第2抗体)としては、該MAbが由来する動物種の血清であって標準的なものと、オクタロニー法において実質的に反応性を示す抗体であれば、特に制限なく用いることができる。

【0066】本発明において、動物血清と第2抗体との反応性は、例えば、以下の方法によって評価することができる。

【0067】アガロース(ドータイト製)を0.6%になるように生理食塩水に加え、加熱して溶解させる。その10mLをプラスチックシャーレ(CORNING社製; 100mm dish, 25020)に加え、水平に保持し、冷ますことによりアガロース平板を作製し、このアガロース平板に、径4mm、距離4mmの穴をパンチャーで開ける。

【0068】第2抗体と反応すべき動物血清の標準品(例えば正常マウス血清)12 μ Lと第2抗体(例えば抗マウスIgGウサギ血清)12 μ Lとを距離4mmの穴にそれぞれ加え、湿潤中に放置することによりアガロース中を拡散させ、沈降線を形成させる。第2抗体を生理食塩水で2倍づつ希釈させつつ上記アガロース平板における拡散を行ない、正常マウス血清に対して何倍希釈まで沈降線が形成可能かを肉眼で観察する。

【0069】本発明に用いる第2抗体は、少くとも4倍希釈まで標準動物血清と沈降線を形成することが好まし

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く、少なくとも16倍希釈(更には32倍希釈)まで沈降線を形成することが更に好ましい。

【0070】次に、本発明においてHbA_{1c}を測定する場合の好ましい実施態様について述べる。

【0071】本発明においては、各チューブに、通常、被検試料として溶血液2~100 μ L(更には5~20 μ L)程度を採取する。実際に用いる溶血液としては、被検試料(例えば、全血50 μ Lに純水2mLを加えたもの)を5~10倍程度にGBS等の緩衝液で希釈して

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用いることもできる。

【0072】次いで、各チューブに、ラテックス懸濁液(例えば0.087 μ mラテックス、0.15%濃度)を100~500 μ L(更には200~400 μ L)程度加えて、室温(25℃程度)で1~10分(更には3~7分)程度放置して、ラテックスに試料中のHbA_{1c}を吸着させる。この際用いるラテックス懸濁液は、ラテックス原液をGBS等の緩衝液で希釈して用いることが好ましい。

【0073】次いでラテックスに吸着させたHbA_{1c}に、抗HbA_{1c}モノクローナル抗体(例えばマウス腹水由来のモノクローナル抗体)溶液を100~300 μ L(更には150~200 μ L)程度加え、37℃で2~10分(更には3~6分)程度放置(インキュベーション)して、HbA_{1c}とモノクローナル抗体とを反応させる。この際用いるモノクローナル抗体溶液は原液(マウス腹水)を、GBS等の緩衝液で200~1000倍(更には400~800倍)程度に希釈して用いることが好ましい。この際用いる緩衝液には界面活性剤(Tween 20等)を0.1~0.5%(更には0.2~0.3%)程度加えておくことが、モノクローナル抗体のラテックス表面への物理吸着を防ぐ点から好ましい。

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【0074】本発明においては更に、上記モノクローナル抗体に結合する第二抗体(例えば、上記モノクローナル抗体がマウス由来の場合には、他の動物由来の抗マウスIgG血清)10~150 μ L(更には20~100 μ L)程度を加え、37℃で5~30分(更には10~20分)程度放置(インキュベーション)して、上記モノクローナル抗体と、これに結合する第二抗体とを反応させる。この際用いる第二抗体は、上述したモノクローナル抗体におけると同様に、GBS-T(Tween 20を含むGBS)等の緩衝液で5~50倍(更には10~20倍)程度に希釈して用いることが好ましい。

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【0075】なお、実際の測定において、生化学自動分析機(例えば日立製作所製、7070型自動分析機)を用いて測定する場合、例えば試料量1~20 μ L程度、試薬量1~350 μ L程度が好適に用いられる場合には、一例として、以下のような量比及び反応時間が好ましく用いられる。

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【0076】

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被検試料: 6 μ L
 ラテックス懸濁液: 188 μ L (反応時間5分)
 モノクローナル抗体: 120 μ L (反応時間5分)
 第二抗体: 60 μ L (反応時間5分)
 【0077】

【実施例】以下、製造例、実施例により本発明の殺菌イムノアッセイ法を更に具体的に説明する。

【0078】製造例1

(ヘモグロビンA α β 鎖N末端のグリコペプチドエピトープに対するモノクローナル抗体の作製) ヘモグロビン β 鎖のN末端アミノ酸配列に相当するペプチドを合成し、N末端アミノ酸残基であるValの α -アミノ基にグルコースを非酵素的に結合させて、グリコペプチドを合成し、更にスパーサーを介してキャリアー蛋白に結合させ、それを免疫原としてモノクローナル抗体を得た。

【0079】具体的には、以下のように行った。

【0080】F $_{100}$ -L-Valine, N α -F $_{100}$ -N α -Trityl-L-Histidine, F $_{100}$ -L-Leucine, F $_{100}$ -O α -t-Butyl-L-Threonine, F $_{100}$ -L-Proline, 及びF $_{100}$ -s-trityl-L-Cysteine (いずれもペプチド研究所製)を用いて、Val-His-Leu-Thr-Pro-Cys およびVal-His-Leu-Cysのペプチドを合成した (なお、Cys (システイン)は、スパーサーの一部である)。合成は市販のペプチド合成機 (Applied Biosystems, Model 430A)を用いて行った。ペプチド合成後、固相である樹脂からペプチドを脱離させて粗ペプチドを得た。

【0081】粗ペプチドを1mg/mLになるように純水に溶かし、4 $^{\circ}$ Cに冷却した。モル比1.5倍量の2,2'-ジチオジピリジンを経手しながら滴下し、10分間反応させて、システインのSH基を保護した。凍結乾燥後、1%酢酸に溶かし、不溶物を遠心除去した後、Sephadex G25 (15 \times 900mmカラム)でゲルろ過して得たペプチド分画を凍結乾燥した。このペプチドを酢酸に溶かし、ピリジン存在下でモル比2倍量のグルコースを添加し、室温で約10日間攪拌した。ペプチドが糖化されるとHPLCでのリテンションタイム (保持時間)が短くなることから、反応の進行状況はHPLCでチェックした。

【0082】HPLCによる分析条件は以下の通りである。

【0083】カラム: TSK gel, ODS-120A (4.6 \times 250mm, 東ソー社製)

機器: 島津HPLCシステム

移動相: 10%アセトニトリル/0.1%トリフルオロ酢酸から60%アセトニトリル/0.1%トリフルオロ酢酸への直線勾配

流速: 0.8mL/min

時間: 25min

モニター: 吸光度 280nm

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この糖化ペプチドを最終的にHPLCで精製し、凍結乾燥した。

【0084】分離条件は以下のとおりである。

【0085】カラム: TSK gel, ODS-120A (21.5 \times 300mm, 東ソー社製)

移動相: 10%アセトニトリル/0.1%トリフルオロ酢酸から60%アセトニトリル/0.1%トリフルオロ酢酸への直線勾配

流速: 5mL/min

10 モニター: 吸光度 280nm

凍結乾燥した上記ペプチドを0.1Mリン酸カリウム緩衝液 (pH8.5)に溶かし、システイン保護基を脱離するため、3倍量のDTT (Dithiothreitol)を加え、窒素ガスを満たして24時間反応させた。そして塩酸でpHを5に下げた後、上記と同様にHPLCで精製し、凍結乾燥し、最終的に糖化ペプチドを得た。ただし、280nmの吸光度に代えて215nmの吸光度を測定した。

【0086】この糖化ペプチドに、スパーサーとしてE MCS (N-succinimidyl 6-maleimidocaproate)を用い、常法によりキャリアー蛋白 (水溶性蛋白としてThyroglobulin, 不溶性蛋白としてEdestin (ともにFluka社製)に結合させ、免疫原とした。

【0087】上記免疫原100 μ gを完全フロイントアジュバント (Complete Freund's Adjuvant) でw/o (water in oil)型ミセルとし、Balb/c、マウス (8週令)の腹腔中に注射した。追加免疫は免疫原を不完全フロイントアジュバント (Incomplete Freund's Adjuvant) でw/oミセルとし、1ヶ月の間隔で2回行った。細胞融合の3日前に生食 (生理的食塩水)中の免疫原を皮下注射し、これをブースターとした。

【0088】細胞融合は常法により行なった。すなわち、脾臓から脾細胞をとり、これをマウス・ミエローマ株細胞 (PAI、東京理大、新井研究室提供; 癌研究リサーチソースバンク (JCRB) にて入手可能)と10:1の割合で混合し、ポリエチレングリコール4000で細胞を融合させた。HAT培地に細胞を浮遊させ、96穴プレートにまき、融合細胞がクローン増殖してくるのを待った。スクリーニングは、あらかじめHbA α もしくはHbA β を固相化した96穴ELISAプレートに培養上清を反応させることにより行なった。緩衝液で洗浄後POD標識抗マウスIgGを反応させ、洗浄後、o-フェニレンジアミンで発色させた。

【0089】より具体的には、スクリーニングは以下のように行なった。

【0090】96ウェルELISA用プレート (NUNC社製; NUNC-IMMUNOPLATE, MAXISORP F96 (4-42404))にHbA α (BioRex70による精製品)を、その濃度が5 μ g/mLになるように0.05Mクエン酸緩衝液 (pH5.6)・

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で希釈した後、各ウェルに50 μ Lずつ分注した。このプレートを4℃で一晩放置してHbA_{1c}をELISAプレートに固相化した。

【0091】このプレートをPBS-T (0.01Mリン酸緩衝液、pH6.8/0.15M NaCl/0.1% Tween 20) で4回洗浄した後、培養上清50 μ Lを加え、室温(約25℃)で2時間放置して反応させた。PBS-Tで4回洗浄した後、POD(ペルオキシダーゼ)標識抗マウスIgG(CAPPEL社製; 3711-0081)をPBS-Tで2500倍希釈し、50 μ L加え、室温で1時間反応させた。PBS-Tで4回洗浄後、基質溶液(0.1% α -フェニレンジアミン/リン酸-クエン酸緩衝液(クエン酸1水和物7.3g、リン酸2ナトリウム12水和物23.9g、純水1L/0.003% H₂O₂) 100 μ L加え、室温で30分間反応させた後、2N-硝酸を50 μ L加え、酵素反応を停止させた。

【0092】次いで、イムノプレートリーダー(ダイナテック社製、MR5000)を用いて上記酵素反応後の溶液の490nmにおける吸光度(OD)を求めた。

【0093】上記で用いたHbA_{1c}に代えてHbA₀(BioRex70による精製品)を用いた以外は上記と同様に実施することにより、培養上清とHbA₀との反応性を同様にOD値で求めることができた。

【0094】HbA_{1c}と反応し、HbA₀と反応しないウェルに、HbA_{1c}と特異的に反応するモノクローナル抗体を産生するハイブリドーマが存在することになる。

【0095】HbA_{1c}と反応し、HbA₀と反応しないウェルのハイブリドーマを限界希釈法でクローン化した。クローンを大量培養後、あらかじめ1週間前にプリスタン(シグマ社製、P1403)1mLを腹腔注射したBalb/cマウス(9~10週令)にハイブリドーマ1 $\times 10^7$ cellsを生食(生理食塩水)とともに腹腔注射し、腹水が腹腔中に充満したところで、モノクローナル抗体を腹水として採取した。

【0096】上記のELISAで用いた精製HbA_{1c}、HbA₀は以下のようにして得た。

【0097】すなわち、HbA_{1c}が高値(10%以上)を示す検体(ヒト血液)を2500rpm 20分間遠心して血漿蛋白を除去した後、赤血球ペレットの5倍量の生理食塩水を加え、遠心洗浄を2回行った。遠心後の赤血球ペレットに等量の純水を加え、溶血させた。15,000rpm 45分間高速遠心し、沈澱物を除去した後、上清をBioRex70(BioRad社製、200~400メッシュ、カラムサイズ28 \times 255mm)を用いてHbA_{1c}とHbA₀を分離した(Trivelli, L. A., 他, New Engl. J. Med. 284, 353~357, (1971) 参照)。各分画の純度をHPLCでチェックしたところ、HbA_{1c}は80~90%、HbA₀は99%以上であった。蛋白濃度の測定は、蛋白定量試薬

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(Pierce社製、BCA Protein Assay Reagent)を用い、添付のマニュアル通りに行った。

【0098】製造例2

(抗マウスIgGの作製) 正常Balb/cマウスから得たマウス血清をProtein G(商品名: プロテインG スーパーローズFF、ファルマシア社製)カラムに通し、マウスIgGを精製した。完全フロインドアジュバントとともに、この精製マウスIgG100 μ gをウサギ四肢皮下に2週間に1回計3回、背皮下に2週間に1回計3回(合計6回)免疫した。最終免疫7日後に全採血した。

【0099】実施例1

ヒトから採取した全血50 μ Lに純水2mLを加えて溶血させて、溶血原液を調製し、更にGBS(グリシン緩衝液; 0.05Mグリシン、pH8.2/0.15M NaCl/0.02% NaN₃)で8倍に希釈して被検試料とした。

【0100】ポリスチレンチューブ中に、上記被検試料100 μ Lを取り、これに粒径0.087 μ mラテックス(積水化学工業社製、「試験用ラテックス 品番N-080」)をGBSで希釈して0.15%濃度としたラテックス懸濁液を300 μ L加え、室温で5分間放置して、上記ラテックスに被検試料中のHbA_{1c}を吸着させた。

【0101】次いで、上記ラテックス懸濁液に、製造例1で得たマウス腹水由来の抗HbA_{1c}モノクローナル抗体をGBS-T(GBSにTween 20を0.3%溶かしたもの)で600倍に希釈したものを200 μ L加え、37℃で5分間放置して、ラテックスに吸着されたHbA_{1c}と上記モノクローナル抗体とを反応させた。

【0102】更に、該ラテックス懸濁液に、製造例2で得た抗マウスIgGウサギ抗血清(第二抗体)を上記と同様のGBS-Tで10倍に希釈したものを25 μ L加え、37℃で20分間放置して、上記モノクローナル抗体に、上記抗血清を反応させて、ラテックスの選択的凝集反応を行った。

【0103】凝集の程度は、分光光度計(日立製、ダブルビーム分光光度計、220A)を用い580nmで吸光度を測定することにより定量した。

【0104】一方、比較のため、洗浄赤血球の溶血液について、同様の測定を行った。

【0105】すなわち、全血50 μ LにPBS(0.01Mリン酸緩衝液pH7.4、0.15M NaCl含む、2mLを加えて遠心(1500rpm、5分)し、赤血球をペレット化することにより洗浄した。このペレットを純水2mLで溶血させて、溶血液を得た。このようにして得た溶血液を被検試料として用いた他は、上記と同様にして測定を行った。

【0106】上記により得られたデータを図1に示す。図1においては横軸が全血を溶血させた場合の測定値

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(580nm吸光度(OD値))であり、縦軸が洗浄赤血球を溶血させた場合の測定値を示す。

【0107】実施例2

実施例1と同様に洗浄した赤血球を溶血させた溶血液を2倍希釈して被検試料として用い、且つ以下の条件下で反応を行った他は実施例1と同様にして測定を行った。

【0108】ラテックス懸濁液：濃度0.05%、室温で20分間反応

MAb：培養上清4倍希釈、37℃、20分間反応

抗血清：原液5μL

ラテックス法の対照法として、自動測定装置、Hi-Auto A1c HA-8121型(京都第一科学製)によるHPLC法でHbA_{1c}を測定して、ラテックス法とHPLC法双方の測定値の相関を求めた。結果を図2に示す。図2においては、HPLC測定データは全ヘモグロビンに対するHbA_{1c}の割合%で示した。図2に示すようにラテックス法とHPLC法との間には、良好な相関関係が見られた。

【0109】実施例3

実施例1と同様に洗浄した赤血球を溶血させた溶血液を1~128倍希釈して被検試料として用い、且つ以下の条件下で反応を行った他は実施例1と同様にして測定を行った。

【0110】ラテックス懸濁液：濃度0.05~0.4%、室温で20分間反応

MAb：37℃、20分間反応

抗血清：原液5μL

測定結果を図3に示す。図3に示すように、溶血液の希釈系列を作ってそれぞれ反応に供しても、溶血液の一定の希釈の範囲では測定データに実質的に差がない(すなわち、ヘモグロビン濃度に左右されない)ことがわかる。なお、図3のOD 580nmの測定値は、抗マウスIgGを加える前のOD値をブランク値として差し引いた値を示している。

【0111】実施例4

洗浄赤血球由来の1つの検体(HbA_{1c} 10.5%)を他の検体(HbA_{1c} 5.7%)で2倍および4倍希釈して測定し、且つ、ラテックス懸濁液濃度を0.2%とした他は、実施例2と同様にして測定を行った。図4に示すように、本発明のラテックス法において、良好な定量性が見られた。図4の横軸は、HbA_{1c} 5.7%の検体溶血液中に混合したHbA_{1c} 10.5%の検体溶血液のパーセントを示す。

【0112】実施例5

第一反応、すなわち被検試料と、ラテックス懸濁液との反応時間を1~20分間とした他は実施例1と同様にして測定を行なった。結果を図5に示す。ラテックスへのヘモグロビンA_{1c}の吸着は短時間に行なわれることがわかる。

【0113】第二反応、すなわち抗ヘモグロビンA_{1c}モ

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ノクローナル抗体を反応させる時間を1~20分間とした他は、実施例1と同様にして測定を行なった結果を図6に示す。第二抗体を加える前のモノクローナル抗体とラテックスとの反応も、短時間で充分であることが示された。

【0114】また、第三反応、すなわち、第二抗体を反応させたときの580nmのOD値変化を30秒毎に測定した他は、実施例1と同様にして測定を行なった結果を図7に示す。ただし、測定の都合上、第三反応は室温で行なった。図7に示すように、ラテックスの凝集はゆるやかな曲線を描いて上昇しており、全自動分析機のように時間と温度のコントロールを確実に行うことにより、高い再現性が得られるものと推定される。

【0115】実施例6

HbA_{1c}およびHbA₀をそれぞれ生食(生理食塩水)で倍々に希釈して希釈系列を作製した。

【0116】これらの希釈系列それぞれ100μLに対して、0.2Mグリシン緩衝液(pH2.5)を100μL加え、室温に5分間放置した。そこにPBS-T(0.01Mリン酸緩衝液pH6.8/0.15M NaCl/0.1% Tween 20)を800μL加え攪拌したのち、その100μLに抗ヘモグロビンA_{1c}モノクローナル抗体(培養上清、50倍希釈)を100μL加え、室温に30分間放置した。次いで、そのうちの100μLを、あらかじめHbA_{1c}を固相化(5μg/mL、100μLを96ウェルプレートに加え、4℃一晩放置することにより固相化し、PBS-Tで4回洗浄したもの)した96ウェルプレートに加え、室温で2時間反応させた。

【0117】PBS-Tで洗浄4回行なった後、POD標識抗マウスIgG抗体(CAPPEL社製、3711-0081)(5000倍希釈)を100μL加え、室温で1時間反応させた。後の操作は、モノクローナル抗体作製時のスクリーニングのときと同様に行なった。すなわち、基質反応を室温30分間行ない、停止液を加えて490nmのOD値を測定した。以上はHbA_{1c}もしくはHbA₀を変性させて、それらが抗HbA_{1c}モノクローナル抗体が固相化されたHbA_{1c}と反応するのを阻害するかどうかをみるものであった。

【0118】対照として、HbA_{1c}、HbA₀を未変性のまま反応させるため、グリシン緩衝液100μLを加えるところを純水100μLに変更した以外は、上記と同様の操作を行なった。

【0119】結果を図8に示す。図8に示すように、HbA_{1c}を変性させると、抗HbA_{1c}モノクローナル抗体と液相中で反応し、固相化されたHbA_{1c}との反応が阻害されたが、変性させないHbA_{1c}にはそうした阻害はみられず、抗HbA_{1c}モノクローナル抗体とは液相中で反応しないことが示された。また、HbA₀は、変性の有無にかかわらず抗HbA_{1c}モノクローナル抗体とは反

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応しなかった。

【0120】

【発明の効果】上述したように本発明によれば、被検試料中の抗原性物質を不溶性担体粒子に吸着させ、該抗原性物質に特異的に反応するモノクローナル抗体を反応させた後、該モノクローナル抗体に選択的に結合する第二抗体を更に反応させて不溶性担体粒子を選択的に凝集させることを特徴とする凝集イムノアッセイ法が提供される。

【0121】本発明の凝集イムノアッセイ法によれば、煩雑な前処理を行うことなく、簡便且つ迅速に被検試料中の抗原性物質の測定が可能となるため、同時に多数検体を並列的に処理することも極めて容易となる。加えて、このようなアッセイ法は、生化学自動分析機に好適に適用可能であるため、測定の自動化、大量処理が可能となる。

【0122】更に、本発明によればアッセイ法自体のみならず、試薬の製造という点についても有利な点がある。すなわち、一般に、ラテックス試薬（ラテックスに抗原、抗体等が結合されている）の製造は、同じ品質のものを作ることは必ずしも容易ではない。また、保存中に凝集や沈殿が生じるのを防ぐためのノウハウも必要である。一般に、ラテックス診断薬の価格のうち素材ラテックスのコストは低く、試薬の価格の過半を占めるのは、生物材料と、それをラテックス粒子に被覆するための工程に要するコストである。

【0123】これに対し、本発明によれば、ラテックス等の不溶性担体に抗原や抗体は実質的に感作されておらず、市販の試薬用の不溶性担体（ラテックス等）をそのまま使用することも可能なため、新たな「ラテックス試

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薬」を製造することは必須でなくなる。加えて、本発明においては、抗体についても、必ずしも精製品である必要はなく、また、酵素標識などの操作も必要ないため、測定試薬の製造が容易となり、保存安定性の面でも極めて有利である。

【図面の簡単な説明】

【図1】全血を溶血させた被検試料を用いた場合と、洗浄赤血球を溶血させた被検試料を用いた場合との測定データの比較を示すグラフである。

【図2】HPLC法による測定データと、本発明の凝集イムノアッセイ法による測定データの相関を示すグラフである。

【図3】溶血液の希釈系列に対する測定データの変化を示すグラフである。

【図4】1つの検体を他の検体で2倍希釈および4倍希釈した場合の、本発明の凝集イムノアッセイ法の定量性を示すグラフである。

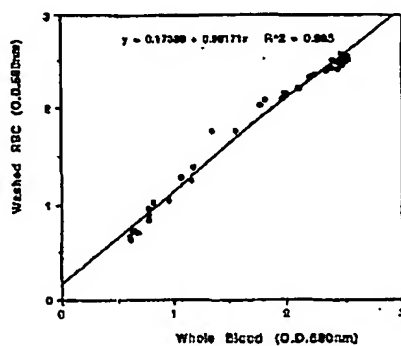
【図5】HbA1cをラテックスに吸着させる時間が、本発明の凝集イムノアッセイ法による測定値に与える影響を説明するためのグラフである。

【図6】抗HbA1cモノクローナル抗体を反応させる時間が、本発明の凝集イムノアッセイ法による測定値に与える影響を説明するためのグラフである。

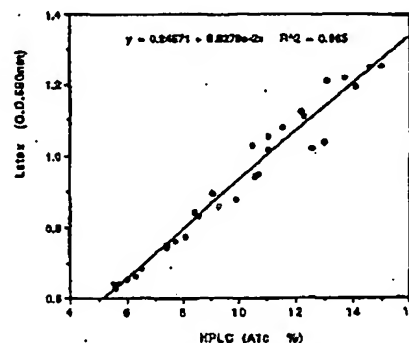
【図7】第二抗体を反応させる時間が、本発明の凝集イムノアッセイ法による測定値に与える影響を説明するためのグラフである。

【図8】抗HbA1cモノクローナル抗体がELISAプレートに固相化されたHbA1cと反応するが、液相中のHbA1cとは反応せず、液相中の変性させたHbA1cとは反応することを示すグラフである。

【図1】



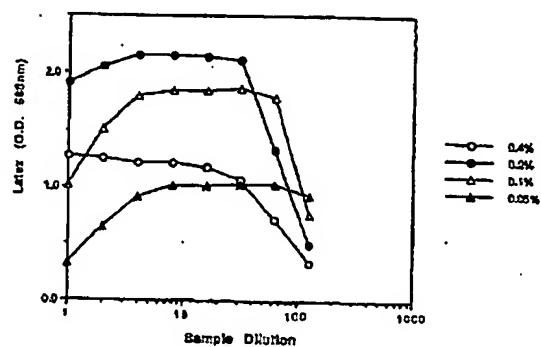
【図2】



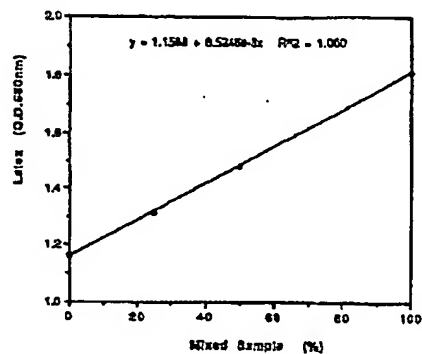
(12)

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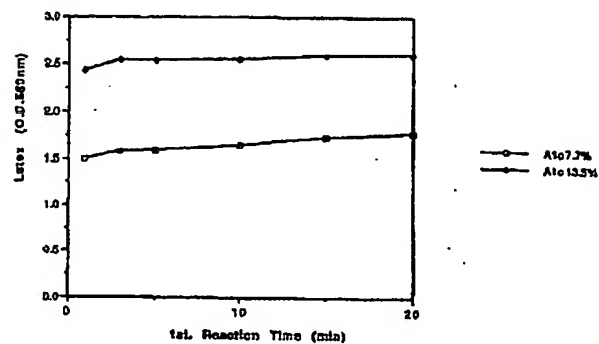
【図3】



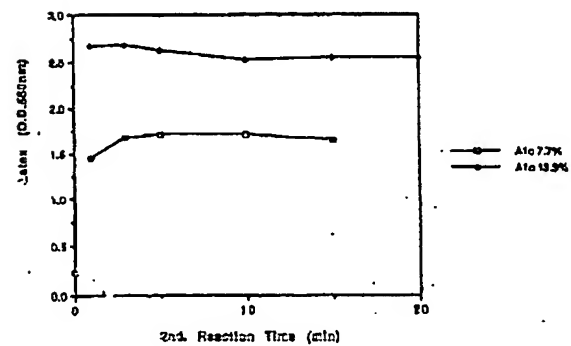
【図4】



【図5】



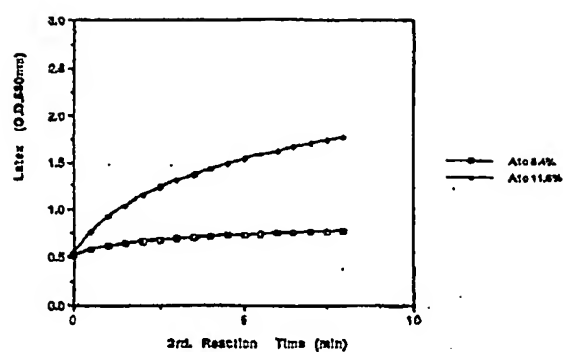
【図6】



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【図7】



【図8】

